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MARVEL AGE GOES TO HELL — WITH FULL COVERAGE OF CLIVE BARKER'S HELLRAISER AND BARBARA SLATE'S YUPPIES FROM HELL™
NOW IN THEIR OWN GRAPHIC NOVEL...
THE SQUADRON SUPREME™
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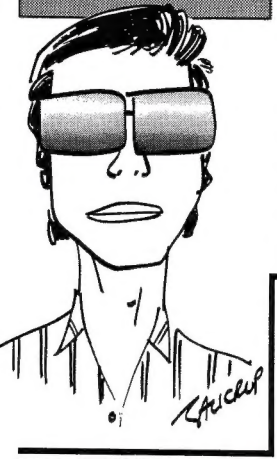
SALICRUP'S SECTION



It's that time again when I have to say good-bye to one of my MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE assistants–er, I mean, managing editors and I'm not looking forward to it. Sure, sure, I can say how wonderful it has been working side by side with **Dwight** over the years, and how much I'll miss him, but chances are I'll still be working side by side with Dwight in the future, and therefore I won't miss him. You see, Dwight moved on to a job in Marvel's Domestic Licensing Department. He'll be working with Lovely **Liz Sheppard**, Glorious **Gloria Birulin**, the non-inking, but always thinking **Allan Gordon**, and all the rest, so I'll still be seeing him every day. He'll even continue writing the Marvel Coming Attractions so he'll even still be working for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.

But who am I fooling? It still won't be the same! There's a certain relationship that develops when people work together closely over the years, and *that* I'm gonna miss! Good luck, Dwight Jon Zimmerman, wherever you are!

–Jim Salicrup

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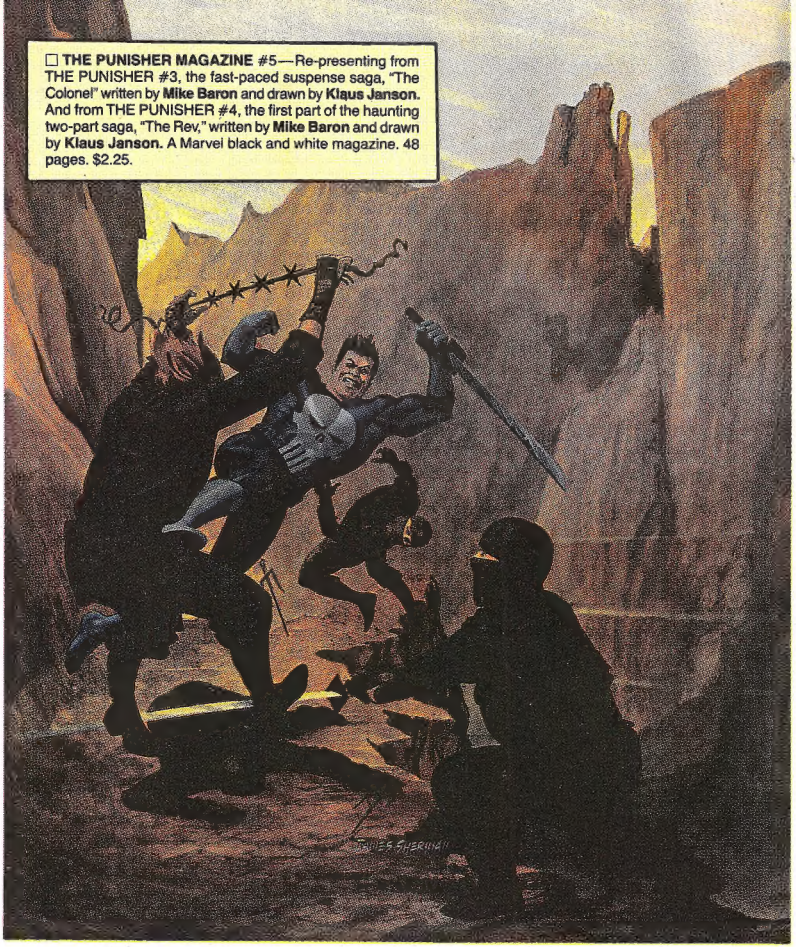
MARVEL® COMING ATTRACTIONS

Here's a complete checklist of what's happening in all the Marvel, Epic, and Marvel U.K. titles shipping in September.

Titles Shipping October 3
On Sale October 24

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #59—An Acts of Vengeance tie-in! **Doctor Doom** forces **Titania** into a rematch with **Spidey.** But if she couldn't beat a normal-powered **Spider-Man,** how can she hope to defeat a super-powered **Spidey**—and the **Puma**?! Written by **Gerry Conway,** penciled by **Alex Saviuk,** and inked by **Keith Williams.** $1.00.



☐ **THE PUNISHER MAGAZINE** #5—Re-presenting from THE PUNISHER #3, the fast-paced suspense saga, "The Colonel" written by **Mike Baron** and drawn by **Klaus Janson.** And from THE PUNISHER #4, the first part of the haunting two-part saga, "The Rev," written by **Mike Baron** and drawn by **Klaus Janson.** A Marvel black and white magazine. 48 pages. $2.25.

☐ **OPEN SPACE** #1—A Marvel comics shared-universe anthology series written by top science-fiction writers!

In "Handshake" a faster-than-light drive has been invented. But the public may never get to use it! Written by **Joe Clifford Faust** and drawn by **Tom Grummet.**

In "Land of Nod" space stations on Mars and Venus become pawns in a brutal political power game. Written by **Barry N. Malzberg** and drawn by **Ray Logo.**

"Heroes" reveals how a desperate man inadvertantly becomes a savior of mankind! Written by **G. Harry Stine** and drawn by **Bill Wray.**

And in "Frontiers" an investigative reporter reveals what life is really like in a mining camp on another planet. Written by **Lawrence Watt-Evans** and drawn by **Steve Yeowell.** A Marvel Graphic Album. 64 pages. Direct Sales only. $4.95.

☐ **SQUADRON SUPREME** Graphic Novel—The most awesome cosmic menace ever is about to destroy the **Squadron Supreme**'s universe! Against such a menace, will the **Squadron Supreme** save the world? Or will they betray their world's trust? The answer will surprise you! Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Al Williamson.** 80 pages. $9.95.

☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #256—An Acts of Vengeance tie-in! **Psylocke** falls prey to the malevolent **Mandarin**—wait'll you see the shocking changes that happen to her! Plus: what happened to the **X-Men**—the answer at last! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Jim Lee**, and inked by **Dave Hunt.** $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #38—**Wolverine** returns! Plus, **Excalibur, Wonder Man,** and the **Hulk!**

EXCALIBUR—The stunning conclusion! It's all-out war between the **Loonies** and **Excalibur!** And you've never before seen such a wild, wacky, and ultra-deadly battle! Written by **Michael Higgins,** penciled by **Erik Larsen,** and inked by **Terry Austin.**

WOLVERINE Part I—**Wolverine**'s in Hong Kong. But is he walking into a trap? Written by **Marv Wolfman,** penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Al Milgrom.**

WONDER MAN Part I—**Wonder Man** goes berserk! Can even the **West Coast Avengers** help him regain his sanity? Written by **Michael Higgins**, penciled by **Javier Saltares**, and inked by **José Marzan.**

Plus complete in this issue: The **Hulk** has it in for a famous pop artist. And after the **Hulk**'s finished, the modern music world will never be the same! Written by **Bill Mumy**, penciled by **Marshall Rogers**, and inked by **Dan Adkins.** 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **THE SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK** #10—**Steve Gerber** debuts as the new writer! And look who he brings in as the **She-Hulk**'s guest star— **Howard the Duck!** Penciled by **Bryan Hitch** and inked by **Bob Wiacek.** 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **AVENGERS WEST COAST** #53—An Acts of Vengeance saga! The West Coast team is ambushed by the **Hulk**'s deadliest enemies—the dread **U-Foes!** And watch out for what happens between the **Vision** and **Wonder Man!** Written and penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Mike Machlan.** $1.00.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #365—Not one, but *two* tie-ins to the Acts of Vengeance!

The **Red Skull** orders **Crossbones** to help the supervillains who've escaped from the Vault. And to stop **Captain America** from intercepting him, the **Red Skull** sends **Iron Man**'s enemy, the **Controller!** Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Kieron Dwyer**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi.** Plus: **Cobra** and **Mr. Hyde** were once partners, now **Mr. Hyde** is out to kill **Cobra.** Then why are they trying to kill each other? Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and inked by **Don Hudson.** $1.00.

☐ **DAREDEVIL** #275—An Acts of Vengeance tie-in! **Dr. Doom** has activated one of the deadliest super-villains in the Marvel Universe! That's right, **Ultron**'s back and he's been ordered to annihilate **Daredevil, Number Nine,** and all of the **Inhumans!** Written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **John Romita Jr.**, and inked by **Al Williamson.** $1.00.

Titles Shipping October 10 On Sale October 31

☐ **ALF** #24—**Alf** turns to his Wotif Machine to find out what would have happened if his girlfriend, **Rhonda**, had stayed with him at the **Tanners.** Talk about surprising results—you'll see high living, kidnapping by an alien task force, and a prison break that you'll never forget! Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Dave Manak**, and inked by **Marie Severin.** $1.00.

☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #327—An Acts of Vengeance tie-in! **Magneto** wonders if **Spider-Man**'s new powers are the expression of a late-blooming mutant. So he goes to "test" **Spidey**—in an all-out battle! Written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Erik Larsen**, and inked by **Al Gordon.** $1.00.

☐ **AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT** #27—Two Acts of Vengeance tales!

It seems that nothing **Hawkeye** does can keep **Crossfire** down! Wait'll you see **Crossfire**'s comeback! As **Hawkeye** discovers, it's sheer murder! Written by **Howard Mackie,** penciled by **Al Milgrom,** and inked by **Don Heck.**

Hawkeye takes on a suicide assignment—single-handedly stopping a mass escape of super-villains from the Vault! Written by **Dwayne McDuffie**, penciled by **Duane Turner**, and inked by **Frank Bolle.** $1.00.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #60—Has **Groo** lost his mind? Did **Groo** even have a mind to lose in the first place? The answer to that question is almost as portentous as the trouble his bumbling is about to cause now—trouble so great, not even **Rufferto** can save him! Written and drawn by **Sergio Aragonés** with this-and-thats by **Mark Evanier.** An Epic comic. $1.00.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF** #42—**Heathcliff** and **Iggy** come to New York to see the big Thanksgiving Day parade—and wind up in the sky themselves, trying to catch a high-flying **Grandpa Nutmeg!** "The Big New York Adventure" is written by **Angelo De Cesare**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Roberta Edelman.** $1.00.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #84—An Acts of Vengeance tie-in! And it's also the shocking climax to the war in Asgard! **Dani** is forced to use **Hela**'s Dark Sword to kill **Odin!** Meanwhile on Earth, **Rusty**, a prisoner in the Vault, meets the explosive **Nitro!** Written by **Louise Simonson** and penciled by **Terry Shoemaker.** $1.00.

☐ **THE Nth MAN** #7—*Not* an Acts of Vengeance tie-in! It's a 3-way confrontation in Washington, D.C. and on the astral plane between the enigmatic **Nth Man**, the vivacious **Colonel Novikova**, and the inimical **Alfie O'Meagan!** Plus: **Alfie** discovers who his foster parents really are! A shocker! Written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Ron Wagner**, and inked by **Fred Fredericks.** $1.00.

☐ **QUASAR** #5—An Acts of Vengeance tie-in! **Thor**'s most dangerous enemy, the awesome **Absorbing Man**, absorbs the power of **Quasar**'s Quantum Bands! How's **Quasar** going to stop him now? Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi.** $1.00.

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT** #79—An Acts of Vengeance tie-in! Why are **Nekra**, the **Scorpion**, the **Owl**, and the **Asp** crossing the border into Canada? The answer to that question could spell the difference between victory or defeat for **Alpha Flight!** Written by **James D. Hudnall**, penciled by **John Calimee**, and inked by **Mike Manley.** 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.50.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.

A **Graphic Novel** is an 8½" x 11" paperback edition.

A **Trade Paperback** is a 7" x 10" paperback edition.

A **Graphic Album** is a 6⅝" x 10" high quality, square-bound edition.

A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.

Shipping Date refers to when the comics leave the printer.

☐ **MARVEL UNIVERSE UPDATE Limited Series** #8—Here it is, in one easy to find package! All the latest info on your favorite heroes, villains, and supporting characters—including their latest costumes! Written by **Peter Sanderson**, penciled by **Walt Simonson, Marshall Rogers, Ron Frenz, Ron Wilson, Kelly Corvese, Keith Pollard, Mike Harris, Marc Silvestri, John Byrne,** and more! Inked by **Joe Rubinstein.** 48 pages. $1.50.

☐ **INTERFACE** #1—A group of five people with psychic powers form a shaky alliance against a mysterious conspiracy who, if they can't control the five, will kill them! Written by **James D. Hudnall** and drawn by **Paul Johnson.** An Epic comic. 32 pages. Hudson Offset paper. $1.95.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #168—It's the climactic final chapter of "Conan in the New World"! **Conan** and his shipmates are desperately trying to find an open sea route in the Arctic wastes that will lead them home. Instead, they find themselves facing dangers that could destroy them all—including the most awesome monster on Earth! Written by **Gerry Conway,** penciled by **Mike Docherty,** and inked by **Ernie Chan.** A Marvel black and white magazine. Mando Offset paper. $2.25.

☐ **GROO CHRONICLES** #6—It's the final issue, and they've saved the best (or worst) for last! From the great, classic tales of the rare GROO series and GROO SPECIAL #1, the ultimate tales of fighting idiocy! Written and drawn by **Sergio Aragonés** with vault-unearthing by **Mark Evanier.** An Epic Graphic Album. 48 pages. Direct Sales only. $3.50.

☐ **ELECTRIC UNDERTOW Limited Series** #2—It's **Morituri** versus **Morituri** in the most devastating manhunt the Earth of the future has seen! If you like stories loaded with high-tech action, this adventure's for you! Written by **James D. Hudnall,** penciled by **Mark Bagley,** and inked by **Carlos Garzon.** A Marvel Graphic Album. 48 pages. Direct Sales only. $3.95.

☐ **WOLVERINE** #19—**Wolverine** goes to Central America to rescue **Roughouse**—and finds **Tiger Shark** blocking his way! Meanwhile **Geist**'s plans of conquest are threatened by an uncontrollable new menace—**La Bandera!** Written by **Archie Goodwin,** penciled by **John Byrne,** and inked by **Klaus Janson.** 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **SLEEZE BROTHERS** #4—In an outrageous spoof of the great detective tales, the **Sleeze Brothers** are guests in a hotel whose occupants are being killed left and right! Will the wacky private investigators discover who the murderer is before—or after—they're killed. Think that's an easy question to answer? Think again—we're talking about the **Sleeze Brothers!** Written by **John Carnell,** penciled by **Andy Lanning,** and inked by **Stephen Baskerville.** An Epic/Marvel U.K. comic. Direct Sales only. For mature readers. $1.75.

Titles Shipping October 17 On Sale November 7

☐ **G.I. JOE** #95—The searing Warrior Reborn Trilogy Part 2! The title is "No Turning Back!" and you'll discover why it's perhaps the most important chapter in **Snake-Eyes**' life! Written by **Larry Hama,** penciled by **Mark Bright,** and inked by **Randy Emberlin.** $1.00.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #364—It's the opening chapter in the astonishing Countdown Tetralogy! **Banner**'s been poisoned! The **Hulk** has only twelve hours to find the antidote because when dawn comes, and he has to turn back to **Banner**, he dies! To make matters worse, here comes the **Abomination!** Written by **Peter David,** penciled by **Jeff Purves,** and inked by **Marie Severin.** $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #232—Re-presenting more of **Spidey**'s greatest mutant team-ups! From MARVEL TEAM-UP #109, **Spidey, Dazzler,** and **Paladin**'s desperate struggle to stop the merciless, energy-absorbing **Thermo, the Thermatronic Man!** Written by **Tom DeFalco** and **Dave Kraft,** penciled by **Herb Trimpe,** and inked by **Mike Esposito.** Plus: An all-new **Spider-Ham** tale written by **Danny Fingeroth,** penciled by **Alan Kupperberg,** and inked by **Joe Albelo.** $1.00.

☐ **THE AVENGERS** #312—An Acts of Vengeance adventure! You've seen what happens when the **X-Men** had to fight **Freedom Force.** But that's nothing compared to what happens when **Freedom Force** bushwhacks the **Avengers!** Written by **John Byrne,** penciled by **Paul Ryan,** and inked by **Tom Palmer.** $1.00.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #227—The conclusion of a searing two-part saga! **Conan** must stop a cult's reign of terror once and for all. But if he does, he might become a thrall to the power that gave the cult its horrifying abilities! Written by **Gerry Conway,** penciled by **José Delbo,** and inked by **Mark Texeira.** $1.00.

☐ **POLICE ACADEMY** #4—It's a tale of revenge, revenge, and more revenge! The nitwits of the Police Academy try to save their chief from the criminal he put behind bars who's out to get him. Trouble is, the chief may not survive the help! Written by **Angelo De Cesare,** penciled by **Howard Post,** and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher.** $1.00.

☐ **THE PUNISHER** #28—An Acts of Vengeance tie-in! To prove his superiority over the **Kingpin, Doctor Doom** swears to do what the **Kingpin** could not—destroy the **Punisher!** Written by **Mike Baron,** penciled by **Bill Reinhold,** and inked by **Mark Farmer.** $1.00.

☐ **WHAT IF. . .?** #8—Because you demanded it! In an alternate universe the shocking consequences are revealed in "What If **Iron Man** *Lost* the Stark Wars?" Written by **Danny Fingeroth,** penciled by **Grey Capullo,** and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey.** 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **EXCALIBUR** #17—**Shadowcat** is declared Public Enemy #1! And that's the *good* news! Wait'll you see the other troubles **Excalibur** has in a post-apocalypse Earth whose laws are enforced by the toughest police force ever seen! Written by **Chris Claremont,** penciled by **Alan Davis,** and inked by **Paul Neary.** 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **POWER PACK** #52—The **Power Pack** kids have been blackmailed out of their powers by **Maraud the Snark.** How can they stop her from using those powers to destroy the whole **Kymellian** race? Written by **Jon Bogdanove,** penciled by **Mike Manley,** and inked by **Al Williamson.** 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **THE DESTROYER** #3—A ninja band almost kills **Remo.** What **Remo**'s master, **Chiun,** does next is sheer murder! Written by **Will Murray,** penciled by **Lee Weeks,** and inked by **Klaus Janson.** A Marvel black and white magazine. 48 pages. Mando Offset paper. $2.25.

☐ **SHADOWMASTERS Limited Series** #4—It's the final issue and it's awesome! Three young **Shadowmasters** take on the hordes of the murderous **Sunrise Society!** Who survives? We ain't tellin'! But we will say if you want to know why the **Shadowmasters** are so important to the **Punisher**'s future, this is a tale you must not miss! Written by **Carl Potts,** penciled by **Dan Lawlis**, and inked by **Tod Smith.** Cover painting by **Carl Potts.** A Marvel Graphic Album. 48 pages. Direct Sales only. $3.95.

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #39—**Wolverine, Wonder Man, Hercules,** and **Spider-Man** in four incomparable adventures!

WOLVERINE Part II—**Wolverine** confronts a threat who just may be more than a match for his adamantium claws! Written by **Marv Wolfman**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Al Milgrom.**

WONDER MAN Part II—The reason for **Wonder Man**'s uncontrollable fury is revealed! A shocker! Written by **Michael Higgins**, penciled by **Javier Saltares**, and inked by **José Marzan.**

HERCULES Part I—**Hercules** and his son find themselves battling the most unexpected foe of all! Written and drawn by **Bob Layton.**

Plus complete in this issue:

Spider-Man is in one of the wildest fights yet against the **Vivisectionists!** Written by **Bill Mumy** and penciled by **Aaron Lopresti.** 32 pages. Biweekly. $1.25.

☐ **HELLRAISER** #1—Based on the hit **Clive Barker** horror movies! Four all-new terrifying tales of humans selling their souls to the devil—and the chilling consequences! "The Canons of Pain" a suppressed chronicle from the Crusades written by **Erik Saltzgaber** and drawn by **John Bolton.** "Dead Man's Head," a black comedy tale of the Old West written by **Sholly Fisch** and drawn by **Dan Spiegle.** "The Warm Red," a story of a real-estate scam gone bad written by **Jan Strnad** and drawn by **Berni Wrightson.** And "Dance of the Fetus," a tale too frightening to describe here! Written and drawn by **Ted McKeever.** An Epic Graphic Album. 64 pages. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers. $4.95.

☐ **MARVEL FANFARE** #48—It's an all-**She-Hulk** spectacular!

She-Hulk's in some serious—and we mean *serious* trouble! Not only does she suffer a bitter falling-out with her father, but now her jealous aunt has launched a blood feud that won't end until **She-Hulk** or **Sheriff Morris Walters** is dead! Written by **Dwight Jon Zimmerman**, penciled by **Kerry Gammill**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein.**

In a haunting tale of psychic suspense, **She-Hulk** finds herself trapped in an astral plane, about to become the latest victim of a psychic gone mad! Written by **Sue Flaxman,** and drawn by **Don Perlin.**

Plus: a special bonus feature that even we can't reveal! 32 pages. Hudson Offset paper. $1.95.

☐ **SILVER SURFER** #32—The **Surfer** becomes the greatest threat to all life in the universe! How it happens makes this one of the greatest suspense yarns of the month! Written by **Jim Valentino**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott.** $1.00.

☐ **MONSTER MASTERWORKS** Trade Paperback #1—Re-presenting the fabulous fun of Marvel's classic monster tales! Thrill again to the spine-chilling threats of **Tim Boo Ba, Grottu,** the **Blip,** the **Glop, Titan, Grot, Gigantus, Vandoom,** and the awesome **Fin Fang Foom!** Written by **Stan Lee** and drawn by **Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, Bill Everett,** and **Dick Ayers.** Cover by **Walt Simonson.** 176 pages. Direct Sales only. $12.95.

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #83—Exclusive articles on the CRITICAL MASS Limited Series, the CLOAK AND DAGGER Graphic Novel, INTERFACE Limited Series, STEELTOWN ROCKERS Limited Series, MARVEL MONSTERWORKS, Marvel A to Z Part 2, **Stan**'s Soapbox, **Mark**'s Remarks, **Hembeck**'s Page, the Marvel Trivia Quiz, and more! 75¢.

☐ **SHIELD** #6—A blockbuster! More secrets, more action, more suspense than we can possibly describe here! **Fury** takes on the **Death's Head Guards**—the final chapter! Written by **Bob Harras**, penciled by **Keith Pollard**, and inked by **Kim DeMulder.** 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

Titles Shipping October 24 On Sale November 14

☐ **DAMAGE CONTROL II Limited Series** #2—**Damage Control**'s in league with the **Kingpin**? That's what the **Punisher** thinks. But staying alive long enough to convince the **Punisher** that they're not is the least of **Damage Control**'s troubles! Wait'll you see the threat that could really destroy the group! Written by **Dwayne McDuffie**, penciled by **Ernie Colón**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek.** $1.00.

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR** #335—An Acts of Vengeance saga! **Walt Simonson** debuts as the new regular scripter, and what a tale it is! The **FF**'s about to be overwhelmed with problems—and behind it all is their greatest enemy, **Doctor Doom!** Penciled by **Rich Buckler** and inked by **Romeo Tanghal.** $1.00.

☐ **IRON MAN** #251—An Acts of Vengeance tie-in! The Norn-powered **Wrecker** sets out to kill **Iron Man.** And if anyone can do it, the **Wrecker** can! Written by **Dwayne McDuffie** and penciled by **Herb Trimpe.** $1.00.

☐ **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #159—An Acts of Vengeance tie-in! The **Wizard** breaks the **Brothers Grimm** out of prison so they can kill **Spider-Man.** But will even these two nutty powerhouses be able to defeat **Spider-Man** now that he's got his awesome cosmic powers? Written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Sal Buscema**, and inked by **Mike Esposito.** $1.00.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN** #42—Re-presenting from X-MEN #136—the penultimate chapter in the **Dark Phoenix** saga! Co-plotted and scripted by **Chris Claremont**, co-plotted and penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Terry Austin.** Plus an all-new tale revealing the secret link between **Mr. Sinister** and **Cyclops!** Written by **Chris Claremont** and penciled by **Mike Collins.** 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **ALIEN LEGION** #14—**Nomad Squad** is sent to an ancient battlefield planet on a routine guard assignment. Unknown to them, the planet's ancient defenses are still active! Written by **Chuck Dixon**, penciled by **Larry Stroman**, and inked by **Mark Farmer.** An Epic comic. 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **THOR** #412—An Acts of Vengeance saga. **Thor** versus the **Juggernaut**—the ultimate bone-crushing battle! Plus: make way for **Namorita, Night Thrasher, Speedball, Kid Nova, Marvel Boy,** and **Firestar—the New Warriors!** Written by **Tom DeFalco, Ron Frenz,** and **Joe Sinnott.** $1.00.

☐ **THE TRANSORMERS** #61—At last it can be revealed! The origin of the **Transformers!** See the very first **Transformer!** Behold the inside of **Cybertron!** And meet the biggest, deadliest menace the **Transformers** have ever faced! Written by **Simon Furman**, penciled by **José Delbo**, and inked by **Dave Hunt.** $1.00.

☐ **X-FACTOR** #49—An Acts of Vengeance tie-in. **X-Factor**'s troubles on an alien world are nothing compared to the murderous reception awaiting them on Earth! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Paul Smith**, and inked by **Al Milgrom.** $1.00.

☐ **MOON KNIGHT** #9—A crossover with THE PUNISHER *and* the Acts of Vengeance! All we can say is that no matter what **Moon Knight** and the **Punisher** do, thanks to **Flagsmasher** and **ULTIMATUM** it looks like there'll be anarchy in the U.S.A.! Written by **Chuck Dixon**, penciled by **Sal Velluto**, and inked by **Tom Palmer.** 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **ALF HOLIDAY SPECIAL** #2—It's an uproarious celebration of the season in this collection of all-new tales featuring the **X-Melmen, Gorman the Bar-B-Q-Barian,** the **Melmarx Brothers,** the **Fantastic Fur,** the **Crazy Critter,** and, of course, **Rhonda!** Written by **Michael Gallagher,** penciled by **Dave Manak**, and inked by **Marie Severin.** 64 pages. $2.00.

☐ **CLOAK AND DAGGER** #9 — A giant-sized Acts of Vengeance tie-in! The super-villains have enlisted **Cloak** and **Dagger** into their scheme to destroy the super heroes! What happens next is absolute mayhem! Written by **Terry Austin**, penciled by **Mike Vosburg**, and inked by **Mike Vosburg** and **Barb Raush.** 48 pages. Direct Sales only. $2.50.

Titles Shipping October 31 On Sale November 21

☐ **THE PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL** #13 — An Acts of Vengeance tie-in! It's the explosive conclusion to the two-part **Punisher/Bushwacker** saga! And when we say explosive, we mean *explosive*! Written by **Carl Potts**, penciled by **Jim Lee**, and inked by **Al Milgrom.** 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

MARVEL® MASTERWORKS™

☐ **MARVEL MASTERWORKS** #10—Re-presenting one of the greatest series of adventures in **Spider-Man**'s history! **Spidey** takes on the **Human Torch,** the **Beetle,** the **Circus of Crime,** the **Green Goblin,** the **Sandman,** the **Vulture,** is captured by the **Spider Slayer,** faces off against the **Mole Man** and **Doctor Octopus**—and more! It's AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #21-30 and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #1 written by **Stan Lee** and drawn by **Steve Ditko.** A Marvel hardcover. 272 pages. $29.95.

☐ **YUPPIES FROM HELL** Graphic Album—Hate yuppies? Then this outrageous satire of Young Urban Professionals is for you! Watch them battle for social standing, love, and lower rents in a neurotic world all their own! Written and drawn by **Barbara Slate**. A Marvel black and white graphic album. Direct Sales only. $2.95.

☐ **AKIRA** #14—The battle for control over **Akira** continues. **Kay, Kaneda,** and **Chiyoko** sneak into **Mr. Nezu**'s compound to retrieve the kidnapped **Akira.** But the rebels find themselves fighting not only **Mr. Nezu,** but also the Colonel and the government, and **Lady Miyako!** Written and drawn by **Katsuhiro Otomo,** English adaptation by **Jo Duffy,** with computer coloring by **Steve Oliff.** An Epic Graphic Album. 64 pages. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers. $3.50.

☐ **ART OF MOEBIUS** Graphic Novel — It's a stunning collection of short stories, sketchbook illustrations, paintings—just about the finest examples of **Moebius**'s work ever assembled! If you're a **Moebius** collector, this volume is a must. And if you're one of the few who aren't, discover here why **Moebius** is acclaimed as one of the greatest comics artist in the world! 96 pages. Direct Sales only $14.95.

☐ **CONAN SAGA** #33—Re-presenting from SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #6 **Conan**'s greatest desert adventure! "The Sleeper Beneath the Sands" is written by **Roy Thomas** and drawn by **Sonny Trinidad.** Plus, from SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #9, **King Kull**'s blood-drenched attempt to regain his throne! "When a Tiger Returns to Atlantis" is written by **Doug Moench** and drawn by **Sonny Trinidad.** A Marvel black and white magazine. 64 pages. Mando Offset paper. For Mature Readers. $2.25.

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #40—**Wolverine, Wonder Man, Hercules,** and **Overmind** in four new stories!

WOLVERINE Part III-**Wolverine** unleashed! And Hong Kong may not survive the experience! Written by **Marv Wolfman**, penciled by **John Buscema,** and inked by **Al Milgrom.**

WONDER MAN Part III—If you thought **Wonder Man** had problems before, now the **Enchantress** takes over his life! Written by **Michael Higgins**, penciled by **Javier Saltares**, and inked by **José Marzan.**

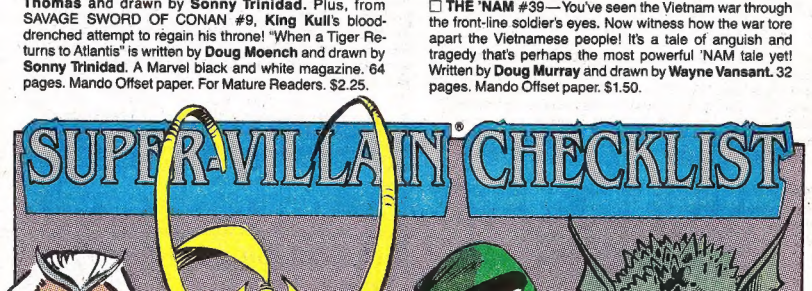
HERCULES Part II—**Hercules** or his son? One must die—but who will it be? Written and drawn by **Bob Layton.**

Plus complete in this issue: A town destroyed by radiation is kept alive by the power of the **Overmind.** But what are the horrifying consequences? Written by **Scott Lobdell** and drawn by **Don Heck.** Cover by **Marshall Rogers.** 32 pages. $1.25.

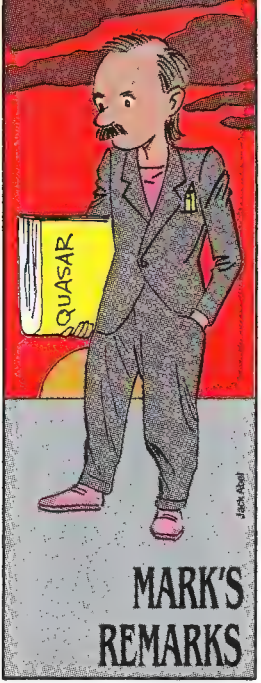
☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE** #12—An Acts of Vengeance tie-in! He may be a Sorcerer Supreme, but is even **Doctor Strange** strong enough to resist the seductive allure of the most sinister sorceress of all—the incomparable **Enchantress!** Written by **Roy Thomas** and drawn by **Jackson Guice.** Plus in Tales of the Vishanti: a new chapter in the forbidden Darkhold book is revealed! Written by **Roy Thomas** and **Jean-Marc Lofficier** and drawn by **Dan Day.** 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.50.

☐ **THE 'NAM** #39—You've seen the Vietnam war through the front-line soldier's eyes. Now witness how the war tore apart the Vietnamese people! It's a tale of anguish and tragedy that's perhaps the most powerful 'NAM tale yet! Written by **Doug Murray** and drawn by **Wayne Vansant.** 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

SUPER-VILLAIN® CHECKLIST



Abomination—INCREDIBLE HULK #364
Absorbing Man—QUASAR #5
Apocalypse—X-FACTOR #49
Asp—ALPHA FLIGHT #79
Black Shadow—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #39
Brain—MARVEL FANFARE #48
Brawn—MARVEL FANFARE #48
Brothers Grimm—SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #159
Controller—CAPTAIN AMERICA #365
Crossbones—CAPTAIN AMERICA #365
Dark Phoenix—CLASSIC X-MEN #42
Death's Head Guard—SHIELD #5
Doctor Doom—DAREDEVIL #275, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #39, PUNISHER #28, FANTASTIC FOUR #325
Doctor Doom II—PUNISHER #28
Enchantress—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #40, DOCTOR STRANGE #12
Fenris—CLOAK AND DAGGER #9
Flagsmasher—MOON KNIGHT #3
Freedom Force—AVENGERS #312
Geist—WOLVERINE #19
Hela—NEW MUTANTS #84
Hydro-Man—CLOAK AND DAGGER #9
Jester—CLOAK AND DAGGER #9
Juggernaut—THOR #412
Kingpin—AVENGERS #312, PUNISHER #28, DAMAGE CONTROL #2
Loonies—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #38
Magneto—AVENGERS WEST COAST #53, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #327, AVENGERS #312
Mandarin—X-MEN #255, AVENGERS #312
Maraud—POWER PACK #52
Nekra—ALPHA FLIGHT #79
Nitro—NEW MUTANTS #84
Owl—ALPHA FLIGHT #73
Red Skull—CAPTAIN AMERICA #365, AVENGERS #312
Rock—CLOAK AND DAGGER #9
Scorpion—ALPHA FLIGHT #79
Mr. Sinister—CLASSIC X-MEN #42
Sorcerer—ALPHA FLIGHT #79
Sweetwater, Lasaine—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #39 and 40
Thermo—MARVEL TALES #239
Tiger Shark—WOLVERINE #19
Titania—WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #53
U-Foes—AVENGERS WEST COAST #53
Ultron—DAREDEVIL #275, ULTIMATUM—MOON KNIGHT #3
Venom—QUASAR #5
Vivisectionists—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #39
Wizard—AVENGERS #312, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #159
Wrecker—IRON MAN #251



One of the great things about having done over a hundred of these opinion columns is that I'm never at a loss for subject matter. When a new idea doesn't occur to me before I sit down to word-process another installment, I can always pull open my top left file drawer and lug out the folder filled with reader reactions to my past columns. Guess what we're doing this month, boys 'n'girls?

Perhaps the most controversial column I ever did (back when M's Rems was running in the four **Avengers** titles I used to edit rather than here) was on the subject of "Revamping Legends." Without looking up the original text, I can tell you that the gist of it was my declaration that unlike our esteemed competitor who was at that time (and continues to do so) rewriting its long-running characters' legends, we at Marvel were not trying to sweep the past under the rug and make wholesale revisions. Rather, we were trying to live with our history and concentrate on the present and future. However, I think I worded it a bit more provocatively than that, and some correspondents took me to task for outright company chauvinism. I even had to do a second column on the subject in order to justify my position a bit better. Well, now that the controversy has died down, I'm going to stir it up again. How? By presenting excerpts from the most interesting responses I got from you, my earnest audience.

Nick Damon of Long Beach, California, writes, "DC needed to revamp. [Their universe] was too crowded. Too many people got carried away. They needed to clear away the inconsistencies. They needed to modernize their characters. So they revamped. You also said Marvel didn't have to revamp because it got it right the first time. Well, DC did too. But that was back in the early 40s around when **Superman** first appeared. They had it right, but had to keep it right. Superman was so popular that he survived the 40s all the way to the 80s without a break. Because of that, his past became confused and jumbled. There was just too much of it."

Nick goes on to show how this could happen, using Marvel characters as an example: "Take **Hawkeye**'s origin. Say, before **Trickshot** was introduced, you had Hawkeye and the **Swordsman** heavily involved in many, many storylines, interacting with most of the Marvel Universe, for years. Now, a new writer says, 'Look at this! Hawkeye, master archer, was trained by the Swordsman, master of swords. It doesn't make sense.' So if he does a story to correct this, he could end up creating zillions of inconsistencies because the characters had become too involved with too many plotlines. This would create yet more plot-holes to fill. And other writers fill them, creating even more plot-holes! What to do? What you do is retell the origin, fixing what needs to be fixed once and for all, stating this was really how it was in the first place. That's just what DC did. And out of their confusion has come rejuvenation."

Good reasoning, Nick. Fortunately for us, Hawkeye and the Swordsman were only in a handful of stories together which recounted their past relationship, so when a writer (such as **Tom DeFalco**) decided that Hawk needed an archer to teach him archery, it did not so much contradict what Hawk or Swordsy said about one another as make us interpret a few line references in a new light. But your point is well taken. If enough contradictions attach themselves to a character, it may be necessary to take decisive steps. But still there are two ways to do this. 1) Revise it and editorially decree "This is the new way things are. Throw out all stories with specific references to the way things used to be." Or 2) Revise it as part of the continuing storyline, and explain in the course of the tale why characters once believed something now revealed as untrue was true. An example of the latter approach, Marvel's preferred method, is the recent **Human Torch/Vision** revelations in AVENGERS WEST COAST.

Next we have **Gayden Wren** of Garden City, New York, who writes, "You suggest that characters need revamping only if they weren't 'done right' the first time, and that DC revamps while Marvel doesn't. Both ideas are grossly over simplified. Characters may indeed be revamped if they originally weren't very good but nevertheless seem to have something worth saving. A good example is Marvel's JUSTICE, which essentially declared its first year of stories to have been a dream—a device that even DC hasn't tried on such a scale. However, characters may also need revamping to clean up inconsistencies in basically good series. This is what DC did with Superman and **Batman** in the late 1950s—and what Marvel did with **Captain America** and **Sub-Mariner.** Even now, Cap's origin is murky and contradictory — do *you* understand it? In addition, sheer longevity breeds internal problems. It's easy for the 25-year old Marvel to sneer at the 50-year old DC on this score, but tell me, in 2014, when IRON MAN is 50, will his origin still be keyed to Vietnam?"

Gayden goes on to write, "There isn't any long-running title, Marvel or DC, which hasn't built up some degree of contradiction, either of fact or of tone. With scores of different creative people working on each title, this is inevitable. Do you consider the **Kirby** 1970s CAPTAIN AMERICA an integral part of the series? What about the early stories in which Cap's shield was broken? Finally, there's the question of changing mores. The racist Captain America of the 1940s is hardly a hero for today, so modern writers tend to ignore those aspects. Many pivotal aspects of today's heroes are sure to be changed in the decades to come—that's evolution. Marvel will need the same revampings as everyone else if it doesn't want to grow irrelevant and die. If Marvel has done less revamping than DC, it's simply because Marvel is a younger universe. To suggest that Marvel doesn't do revamping, or that DC is the less for doing so, is simply to display lack of understanding of the field."

Well, Gayden, you raise a number of interesting points. Let me see how many I can address. The change in the legend of **Justice**, a character published by Marvel but not part of the Marvel Universe, is an example of my

continued on page 10

NEWSWATCH

GAME GOODIES AND TITANIC TOYS THAT ARE GONNA GRAB YA!

ITEM: It seems that at one time or another, darn near everyone of our fans has imagined himself or herself side-by-side, or even playing, the part of one of our super heroes in an adventure. Well, thanks to those like-minded gnomes at LJN, now's your chance to take that dream an exciting step further! They've created two action-packed video games for the Nintendo system starring the **Punisher** and the **X-Men**! But what if you don't have a Nintendo system, or happen to be away from one when the urge hits to play? Not to worry, the gang at LJN thought of that, too, with two portable hand-held games starring **Spider-Man** and the X-Men! They're all on sale now—but, wait! Before you take off to check them out, check out this!

They're from Just Toys and they're just great! They're the new full-color bendable figures of Spider-Man, the Punisher, **Wolverine**, and the **Hulk**! You can bend 'em and twist 'em into darn near any position you want. These figures are available now, too, 'natch. Better be quick, because as neat as they look, they're certain to be a sellout almost before they're unpacked!

MARVEL® TOP TEN

This month's Marvel Top Ten spotlights the success of Marvel's non-mutant super hero, **Spider-Man**! *Both* issues of the biweekly AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL came in to challenge the mutant books. Marvel's Top Ten is the list of Marvel's ten best-selling titles in the direct sales market. It's compiled by our Vice President/ Direct Sales **Carol Kalish.** And here's how they stacked up for the month of May.

1—THE UNCANNY X-MEN #248
2—EXCALIBUR #12
3—WOLVERINE #11
4—X-FACTOR #44
5—WOLVERINE #12
6—THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #320
7—AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #23
8—THE PUNISHER ANNUAL #2
9—S.H.I.E.L.D. #1
10—THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #319

MARK'S REMARKS
continued

No. 2 method of continuity revision mentioned above, an acknowledgement and explanation of a change in known history . . . Yes, Cap's basic origin is simple enough for me to understand. . .Will **Iron Man**'s Vietnam involvement be excised from his history 25 years from now? I don't know. If I have anything to say about it then (which I doubt), I'll say the 50-year old war should be de-emphasized and not specifically referred to, but not out-and-out contradicted through updating. Do I consider Kirby's CAPs integral? Sure, enough so that I'd never write anything to discredit or disprove them. . .Cap's broken shield? Was that the experimental spare one **Tony Stark** was working on? And finally, let me clarify what I mean by "revamping the legend" of a character: by "revamping," I mean significantly changing, by "legend," I mean the origin, past, and initial motivations of a character. It is possible to revamp a character without messing with his legend. My recent CAP storyline revamped his status quo without touching an iota of his history. Marvel revamps the present; usually not the past, or is my lack of understanding of the field showing again?

And finally a letter from **Bill Kropfhauser** of Columbus, Ohio, that really puts your humble columnist in his place: "You indeed have beaten the subject of 'DC revamps and we don't have to' into the ground, but you have hardly settled the controversy surrounding it, since the controversy didn't begin with whether one approach was better than another, but with *you*. You began this with an unnecessarily chauvinistic statement that 'Marvel doesn't revamp their legends—we don't have to.' People are reacting to the pompous superiority complex that so many members of the Marvel hierarchy suffer from and insist on shoving down their readers' throats. Lord knows what all of you think you're better at. As for the nuts and bolts of your statement, I have to challenge it, as well. Marvel doesn't revamp their legends, huh? Then **Reed** and **Ben** are still WWII veterans? The **X-Men** are still **Cyclops, Angel, Marvel Girl, Beast,** and **Iceman?** And shall we discuss **Beta Ray Bill, Rhodey** in the armor, or the new guy in the Captain America outfit? I guess you could say, 'Marvel revamps their legends—it just doesn't stick.' But even if there is some difference between your approach and DC's that amounts to more than semantics, who cares? There isn't going to be some greater award in heaven because you worked for Marvel and their legends are better. Talking down the competition is only going to attract attention to them and make you look mean-spirited and self-important."

Whew! Let me say this, Bill. I *do* think there is a difference in Marvel's and DC's approach to certain things (see above) and if I didn't think Marvel's was better I'd be a hypocrite working here. I did not mean to slam DC as much as point out differences, but enough people have taken me to task for slamming that I now acknowledge that my tone was harsher than intended. Most of the revisions you mention are changes in current status quo not legends (there's semantics for you). Am I going to be rewarded in the hereafter for working for Marvel? Not according to my personal beliefs. Is there a point to doing work for Marvel with as much integrity as I can put into it? I think so. Do I mean to talk down the competition? No, I mean to explore contemporary issues in a no-holds-barred manner. Sometimes I come off overly defensive or strident. Truth to tell, DC was my first love in comics (since there weren't Marvels around when I began reading) and I believe their current approach to their books is as valid as Marvel's. But my sensibilities are more in line with Marvel's.

That's it for this month, folks.

—Mark Gruenwald

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

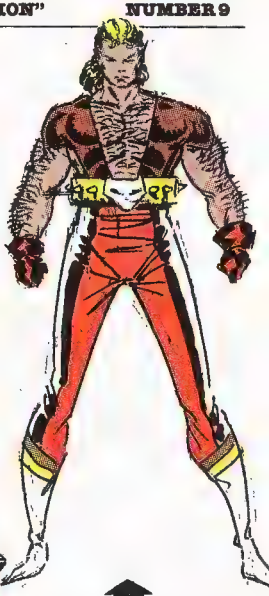
VOLUME 4 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 9

LIEFELD'S NEW MUTANTS SKETCHBOOK II

The new costume designs and characters from Rob Liefeld just keep coming! This time around we're showing you some new characters who may become new New Mutants, or new enemies. Enjoy!

—*Dwight Jon Zimmerman*

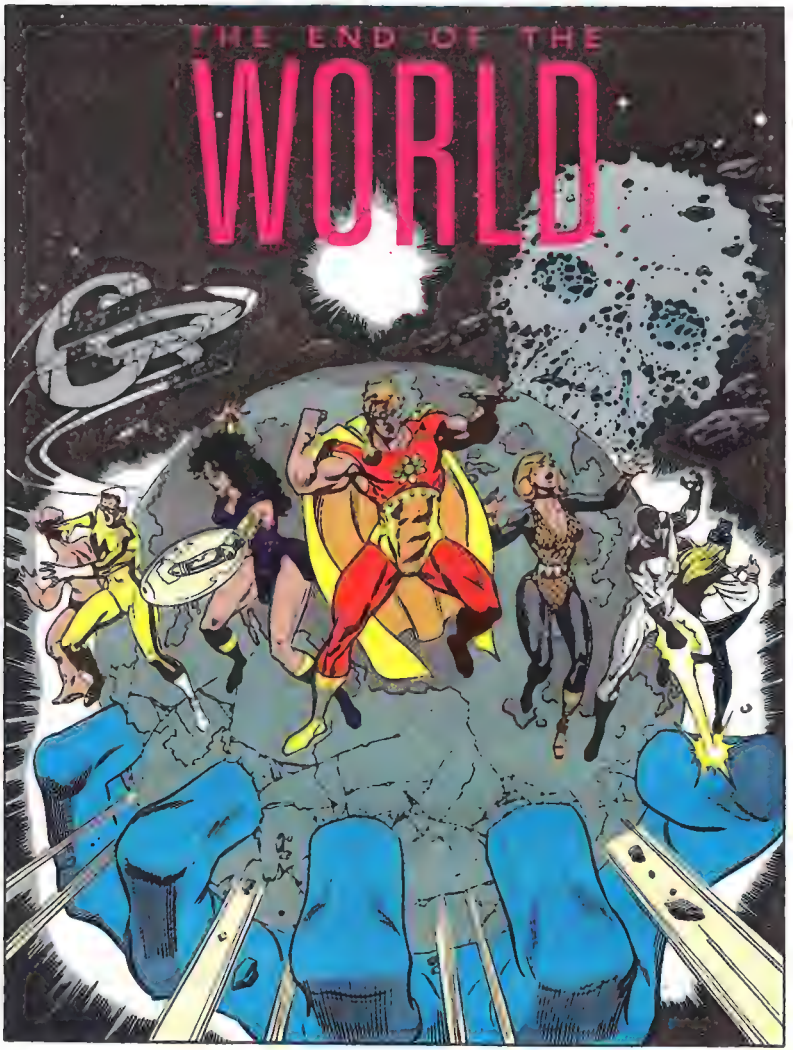
His name will be Cable or Cybrid. And Rob's notes indicate that he's a real man of mystery. Is he a mutant or not; a half-cyborg? He's at least 40 years old, but no one knows for sure. And there's a chance that he knows Wolverine.

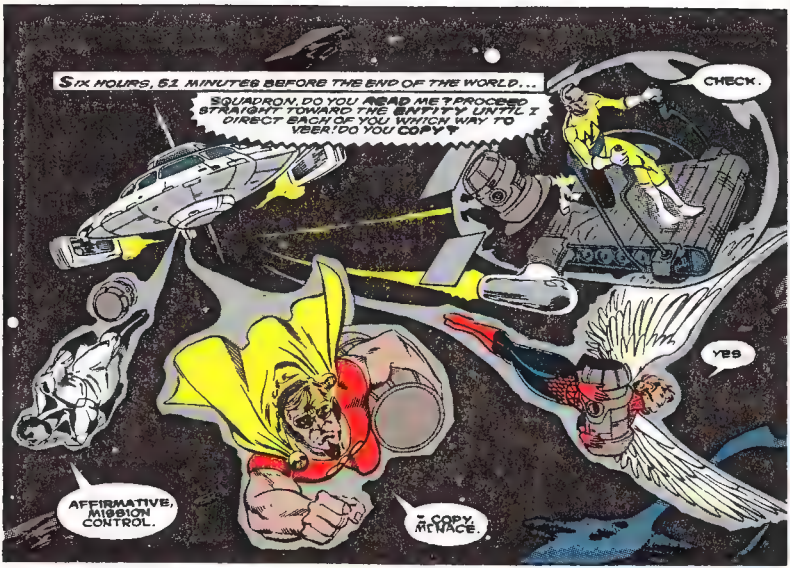


This mean dude's name is Cougar. He's half man and half cat and according to Rob's notes, he's all trouble! Note that his pants have the same outside stripe design as the design on the New Mutants' costumes shown last issue.

Is he friend or foe? His name is not known, but just from the looks of him, he looks like someone even Wolverine would think twice about fighting!

THE SQUADRON SUPREME




SIX HOURS, 51 MINUTES BEFORE THE END OF THE WORLD...
SQUADRON, DO YOU READ ME? PROCEED STRAIGHT TOWARD THE EARTH UNTIL I DIRECT EACH OF YOU WHICH WAY TO VEER! DO YOU COPY?
CHECK.
YES
AFFIRMATIVE, MISSION CONTROL.
COPY MENACE.

Imagine an Earth protected by a team of great and powerful champions of justice, the **Squadron Supreme.** There was mighty **Hyperion**, the strongest man on Earth, virtually invulnerable, the eerie and mysterious crimefighter called **Nighthawk, Power Princess**, a woman who had achieved superhuman physical and mental perfection; the super-fast **Whizzer, Doctor Spectrum**, gifted with a gem that could shape energy according to his will, the sorceress **Arcanna**, and many more. For years they won victory after victory against the most cunning and diabolical of foes.

But then things went wrong. Most of the members of the Squadron were mentally enslaved by businessman who used them to take control of the United States. The Squadron regained their free will and overthrew the usurpers, but only a short time later, the same thing happened again, but far worse. This time the Squadron fell under the mental domination of the alien, **Overmind**, who made them his pawns in conquering the entire Earth. Again, the Squadron escaped his control and Earth was freed, but the planet was left in ruins.

Then the Squadron decided not only to restore the planet to normalcy, but to improve it, and to make the Earth into a paradise. But in order to do so, the Squadron seized control of the United States government themselves. One of the team's leading members, Nighthawk, resigned and formed a secret opposition to overthrow the Squadron's rule.

Finally, the Squadron members realized they were wrong to establish their benevolent dictatorship. But by then they had suffered a terrible price. Several members — Nighthawk, **Black Archer, Tom Thumb, Nuke**— had died. And Hyperion, their leader and most powerful member, had been blinded.

And yet this was not the end of the Squadron's troubles. For now an immense hand is reaching from out of nowhere toward Earth's solar system, threatening to engulf it if it is not stopped. And even the vast power of the Squadron seems inadequate to avert the destruction awaiting Earth.

This is the story of the new SQUADRON SUPREME Graphic Novel, ominously titled THE END OF THE WORLD, written by Marvel executive editor, **Mark Gruenwald**, writer of CAPTAIN AMERICA and the SQUADRON SUPREME Limited Series of a few years ago. The novel is drawn by **Paul Ryan**, who drew the final issues of the SQUADRON series, collaborated with Mark for the entire run of D.P.7, and now works with Mark on the new QUASAR series and with **John Byrne** on THE AVENGERS. The SQUADRON Graphic Novel was inked by **Al Williamson**, whose work now appears every month in DAREDEVIL.

Asked how the SQUADRON Graphic Novel compares with the limited series, Mark replies, "I wanted to do something totally different. I wanted to do the flip side, actually. With the SQUADRON SUPREME twelve-part limited series the idea was that the Squadron was supreme. They had the power to do everything, so they decided to attempt everything, which was to make the world a utopia.

"The graphic novel is the opposite. They are still this particular world's most powerful people, yet they are forced to confront a cosmic menace against which their powers are worthless, no good, next to nothing. They've got to stop this entity from devouring the Earth and so the entire 78-page graphic novel is a countdown to the end of the world, as the Squadron desperately tries every single possible trick to save the world.

"So the novel is apocalyptic, not utopian or political. It takes place about a week after the limited series ends in one of the great time

paradoxes of publishing," Mark says, chuckling. "I knew what the next story would be the moment I had plotted SQUADRON SUPREME #12. In fact, I was almost going to foreshadow it there, but I said, 'Who knows when the novel's going to come out, let's not leave them hanging.' So I kept the limited series clean. It's complete in itself."

Similarly, you do not have to have read any past SQUADRON story to appreciate the new graphic novel. "It works on its own. You don't have to read the limited series in ordering understand what's going on.. It takes off in its own direction."

Mark points out that since the graphic novel is set on an alternate world, and not the Earth of the mainstream Marvel Universe, one must not assume that the Squadron's Earth will indeed survive the end of the story. "Anything can happen, including the destruction of the world and every single person on it. I find that very exciting."

"I won't reveal the ending, but let's just say there are a lot of twists and surprises, and it's pretty grim. And there will be casualties. There's a big note of tragedy at the end." Moreover, "the outcome of the graphic novel launches the Squadron's survivors in a whole new direction" that Mark hopes to explore in the future.

Mark also wants to keep the exact nature of the menace a surprise. "But it comes from beyond their universe," he says, and it should be familiar to longtime followers of Marvel comics.

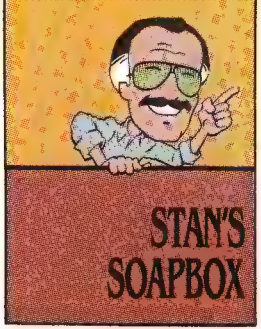
The danger to the Squadron's Earth is so great that even their worst enemies feel obliged to lend a hand. "At least two of the Squadron's major past foes—master menaces, you might even say—join with the Squadron to prevent the end of the world." These villains are the armored genius, **Master Menace**, and the conqueror from the far future, the **Scarlet Centurion**, who are, in a way, the equivalents of **Doctor Doom** and **Kang the Conqueror** on the Squadron's world. "It's not the first time villains have decided to help out the heroes when the fate of the Earth is at stake," Mark observes. He points to a story by **Archie Goodwin** from nearly two decades ago in which Doctor Doom aids the **Fantastic Four** in battling the alien, **Overmind**. "So there is precedent for the bad guys to say, 'Well, if we don't do something good, like save the world, there won't be a world to be bad in.'

"The artwork by Paul Ryan and Al Williamson is incredible to behold," Mark says. "It really captures the scope and the detail and the hardware and the facial nuances—everything. It's going to be a beautiful package. I hope it does well so I can do more SQUADRON stories someday."

Mark, after all, very much likes a number of the characters in the Squadron. "I think the characters are unique in their own right. Anyone who's read the Limited Series can see they have clearly defined personalities and powers which aren't like anything that we or anyone else has ever done." He particularly enjoys writing the developing relationship between Hyperion and Power Princess and singles out the Whizzer as one of his favorites. "I like speed characters."

Summing up, Mark says, "The story is really about heroism, sacrifice, and grace under severe pressure. The end of the world is about as severe a pressure as you can get." Mark declares that the SQUADRON SUPREME Graphic Novel is his favorite of all the stories he has written to date. "If people only read one thing that I've done," he says, "I hope it's this."

—Peter Sanderson



Hi, Heroes!

Well, it finally happened! After all these years of false starts, agonizing delays and endless frustration, we're finally about to start production of—you guessed it!—SPIDER-MAN, THE MOVIE!

For those of you who've wondered what's been taking us so long, here's the answer. We just never found a screenplay we felt was right for ol' **Spidey**, and we've looked at dozens! Some of them were penned by Hollywood's most talented scriptwriters; they were good scripts, but they didn't really capture the true spirit of everybody's favorite web-spinner. Then, there were the other kind of scripts, written by people who've never missed reading an issue of Spidey, people who seem to know as much about **Peter Parker** as I do, and maybe more. But, while they may have been accurate, true-to-life (or true-to-fiction, anyway!) depictions of our wall-crawling hero, they just weren't good screenplays.

In truth, 'twas a maddening dilemma. We finally realized that our only solution was to find a knowledgeable director, someone who could help us structure the story in such a way that it would be both a perfect screenplay as well as a perfect vehicle to showcase our friendly neighborhood **Spider-Man**.

And, as you know, the good guys always win!

Just like in every Marvel thriller, it looks like we're finally due for a happy ending. We think we've found the right director to bring ol' Web-Head to life on the screen. I'm talking about Sizzlin' **Stephen Herek**, the sensational young cinematic whiz who most recently brought you the brilliant "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure."

Steve is really into Marvel, and that means he's a dyed-in-the-wool Spidophile. He knows our style, he knows our characters, and most importantly, he knows our objectives and sees eye to eye with us on how Spidey should be interpreted and depicted on the giant screen.

So that's it! We're finally on the way. As soon as the screenplay is written, I'll clue you in as to who wrote it and which main villain it'll feature. Indeed, right here, on the pandemonious pages of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, you lucky devils, you'll be able to follow the step-by-step progress of Spidey's march to motion picture immortality. So who says I never did nothin' for ya!

Hey, but that's not all!

We're also gearing up to do a big screen version of the world's favorite Shellhead, the invincible, incomparable, incontrovertible **IRON MAN**! Yep, it'll be directed by none other than **Stuart** "Re-Animator" **Gordon** and written by **Dan Bilson** and **Paul DeMeo**, who also scripted the clever, surprise-a-minute thriller, "Trancers."

What's that? You say we're only whetting your appetite? You say you want more? Well, you know magnanimous Marvel isn't ever about to disappoint you! At this very moment, even as your awe-stricken eyes are feasting on this fabulous fount of nerve-shattering news, almost every one of our heroes, and some of our villains, too, are being carefully considered by many of the major Hollywood studios as subjects for feature films, while some of our other cataclysmic characters are also being bid for to star on TV, both in live-action thrillers and in spectacular animated series, as well!

Another indescribably exciting project that we're working on deals with one of the most popular characters in all of comicdom. No, I'm not referring to **Irving Forbush**, although that was a terrific guess! The gent I'm alluding to is a bit more aggressive and perhaps just slightly more dangerous than good ol' Honest Irv. I'm sure you've guessed him by now. So, say hello to wild and wooly **WOLVERINE**, who is destined to hit the silver screen with the impact of a pile driver!

Can't yet tell you who's gonna play the title role as our long-clawed mutant; not because it's a secret but because we haven't done the casting yet. We're just starting to work on the screenplay, and as soon as it's finished we'll get to work in earnest finding the right rampager to play our hairy but heroic hellraiser. So till then, tell **Pee Wee Herman** to relax—we won't be casting for another few months!

Well, that's it for now. After all, how much excitement can you take at one sitting? We've gotta save something for next ish. Anyway, I don't get paid by the word, so no sense stretching this out, right?

Till next time, then, wherever you go and whatever you do, think Marvel! It's the least you can do after you've carefully committed to memory—"Cogito, ergo sum!"

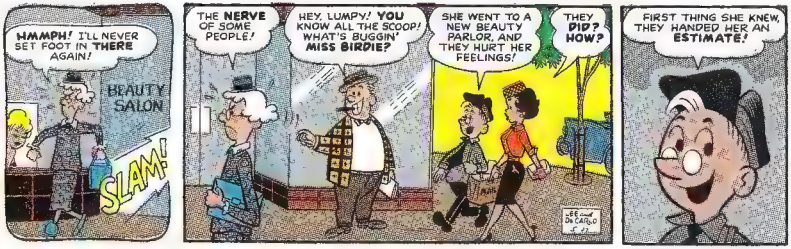
Excelsior!

Stan Lee

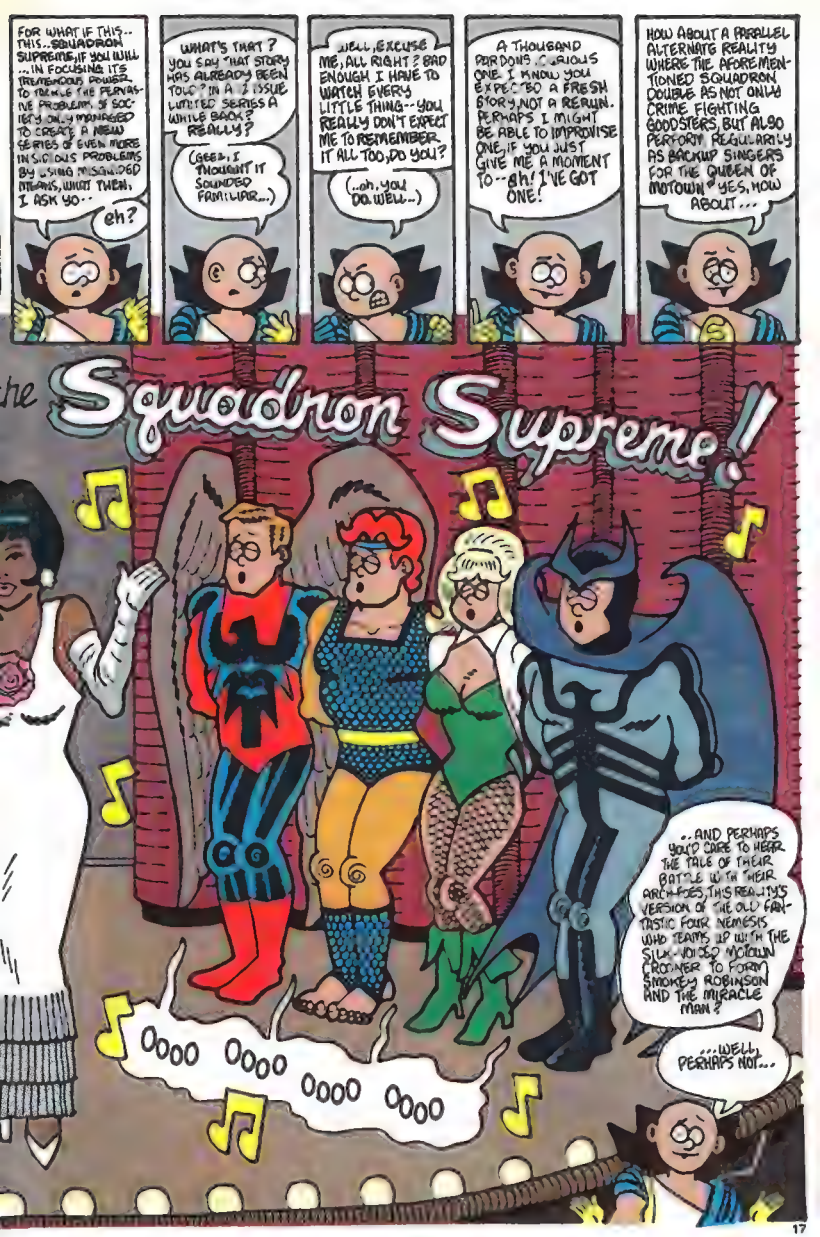
WILLIE LUMPKIN

Stan and Dan's classic comic shop from the fabulous fifties!

© 1989 by Stan Lee and Dan DeCarlo


HMMPH! I'LL NEVER SET FOOT IN THERE AGAIN!
BEAUTY SALON
SLAM!
THE NERVE OF SOME PEOPLE!
HEY, LUMPY! YOU KNOW ALL THE SCOOP! WHAT'S BUGGIN' MISS BIRDIE?
SHE WENT TO A NEW BEAUTY PARLOR, AND THEY HURT HER FEELINGS!
THEY DID? HOW?
FIRST THING SHE KNEW, THEY HANDED HER AN ESTIMATE!

GREETINGS, CURIOUS ONE. YOU MAY CALL ME-- UATU, THE WATCHER!!
UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU'RE EMPLOYED BY MARVEL COMICS, IN WHICH CASE YOU'D NO DOUBT CALL ME A GODSEND.
FOR IT IS I, YOU SEE, WHO IS PRIVY NOT ONLY TO THE EVENTS OCCURRING IN THE OH-SO-FAMILIAR MARVEL UNIVERSE, BUT TO THOSE IN A MYRIAD OF ALTERNATE REALITIES AS WELL.
IT IS I, THEN, WHO HAS THE ANSWERS TO A PLETHORA OF "WHAT IF?" CONUNDRUMS, PERHAPS THE MOST URGENT BEING "WHAT IF SCRIPT-WRITERS RAN OUT OF IDEAS FOR THE MARVEL UNIVERSE?" WHAT INDEED?
PERHAPS AN ANSWER LIES IN A WORLD WHERE ALL THE SUPERHUMANS HAVE BANDED TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THE NOBLE ENDS OF CURING THE ILLS OF SOCIETY ONLY TO DO SO BY FORCING A SERIES OF IGNOBLE SOLUTIONS ON THE POPULACE IN THE ATTEMPT.
Diana Ross and t
BABY, BABY, WHERE DID OUR ALTERNATE REALITY GO?!
OOOO OOOO OOOO OOOO


FOR WHAT IF THIS--THIS--SQUADRON SUPREME, IF YOU WILL--IN FOCUSING ITS TREMENDOUS POWER TO TRUMP THE PERVASIVE PROBLEMS OF SOCIETY ONLY MANAGED TO CREATE A NEW SERIES OF EVEN MORE INSIDIOUS PROBLEMS BY USING MISGUIDED MEANS, WHAT THEN, I ASK YO--
eh?
WHAT'S THAT? YOU SAY THAT STORY HAS ALREADY BEEN TOLD? IN A 2 ISSUE LIMITED SERIES A WHILE BACK? REALLY?
(GEEE, I THOUGHT IT SOUNDED FAMILIAR...)
WELL, EXCUSE ME, ALL RIGHT? BAD ENOUGH I HAVE TO WATCH EVERY LITTLE THING--YOU REALLY DON'T EXPECT ME TO REMEMBER IT ALL TOO, DO YOU?
(...oh, you DO. WELL--)
A THOUSAND PARDONS, OBVIOUS ONE. I KNOW YOU EXPECT DO A FRESH STORY, NOT A RERUN. PERHAPS I MIGHT BE ABLE TO IMPROVISE ONE, IF YOU JUST GIVE ME A MOMENT TO--ah! I'VE GOT ONE!
HOW ABOUT A PARALLEL ALTERNATE REALITY WHERE THE AFOREMENTIONED SQUADRON DOUBLE AS NOT ONLY CRIME FIGHTING GOODSTERS, BUT ALSO PERFORM REGULARLY AS BACKUP SINGERS FOR THE QUEEN OF MOTOWN? YES, HOW ABOUT...
the Squadron Supreme!!
...AND PERHAPS YOU'D CARE TO HEAR THE TALE OF THEIR BATTLE WITH THEIR ARCH-FOES, THIS REALITY'S VERSION OF THE OLD FANTASTIC FOUR NEMESIS WHO TEAMS UP WITH THE SILK-VOICED MOTOWN CROONER TO FORM SMOKEY ROBINSON AND THE MIRACLE MAN?
...WELL, PERHAPS NOT...
Oooo Oooo Oooo Oooo

NEW FROM EPIC®

HELLRAISER ™ & © 1 New World Entertainment

NIGHTBREED™ HELLRAISER™ ART OF MOEBIUS™

Clive Barker, Master of Modern Horror. **Moebius**, one of the foremost illustrators in all of comics. These two men may seem to have nothing in common, but they both are part of an exciting new wave of projects coming your way from Epic Comics.

NIGHTBREED and HELLRAISER are two new series based on the horrific films and books of Clive Barker, who, after **Stephen King**, is perhaps the best-known writer of horror fiction today. THE ART OF MOEBIUS is a trade paperback celebrating the wondrous artistry of perhaps the most popular comics-creator in the world.

First up in September is NIGHTBREED, which is based on the terrifying motion picture due out that same month. The first four issues of the comic will adapt the movie, and after that, there will be all-new spine-tingling stories.

The **Nightbreed** is a collective name for a gathering of all the monsters in the world—the ghosts, ghouls, goblins, and other things that go bump in the night. The series is written by **John Wagner** and **Alan Grant**, and the art is by **Jim Baikie** in a fully-rendered style similar to that of another smash Epic Comic, MARSHAL LAW.

NIGHTBREED is the story of a man named **Boone**, whose psychiatrist tricks him into thinking that he is a crazed serial killer. Boone makes his way to a city called Midian, where it is rumored they will take anybody in, no matter what kind of outcast they are.

When he arrives in Midian, Boone sets out to explore this mysterious, fascinating new place. Beneath an enormous graveyard, Boone finds all manner of mythical monsters and creatures living there. These are the evil things that are the basis for our legends: vampires, griffins, werewolves, and shapeshifters.

These are the Nightbreed.

Boone becomes involved with these creatures. They begin to regard Boone as one of their own. But when the nearby town becomes aware of these creatures, they organize a lynch mob, and it's up to Boone to find a way to save the Nightbreed.

After the adaptation of the film is completed, NIGHTBREED will follow the adventures of Boone, now known as **Cabal**, and his girlfriend, **Laurie**. Cabal will be charged with finding a new home for the Nightbreed. It is Cabal's quest that will become the focus of the comic.

Get ready to have your soul torn apart—again! Those nasty **Cenobites** are back, and they're ready to take you to Hell!

The Cenobites are the stars of the blood-curdling new series from Epic Comics, CLIVE BARKER'S HELLRAISER. These dastardly demons starred in the hit movies *Hellraiser* and *Hellraiser 2: Hellbound*. Now the Cenobites are coming to comics for the first time! CLIVE BARKER'S HELLRAISER is a 64-page anthology comic which will be coming out quarterly.

The project originated when Clive Barker paid a visit to the Epic offices one day. Clive was cornered by **Archie Goodwin**, who was Epic's Editor in Chief at that time. Archie locked Clive in a room for a few hours, and wouldn't let him out until Clive revealed everything there was to know about the Hellraiser universe.

Archie asked Clive all kinds of questions, and when his interrogation was finished, Archie had a complete set of guidelines to the Hellraiser universe, based on concepts in the films. These guidelines were used to develop the new anthology book.

The comic will feature stories about the Hellraiser universe—tales of people finding these mysterious puzzle boxes that open gateways to Hell. If you solve the puzzle, beware—you have just summoned the Cenobites!

The Cenobites are rather unpleasant creatures who reside in the darkest corners of Hell; the ones usually reserved for used car salesmen. Scattered around the Earth are these mysterious puzzles, some of them Rubik's cube-like boxes, as in the films. It is through these puzzles that the Cenobites gain access to Earth, where they can seek more helpless victims.

The leader of the Cenobites is nicknamed **Pinhead**. You've seen him in the films—he's one night-stalker who could make even **Freddie Kreuger** hide under his sheets. Pinhead will be appearing in the comics, as will other Cenobites from the films, and a whole horde of new horrors as well.

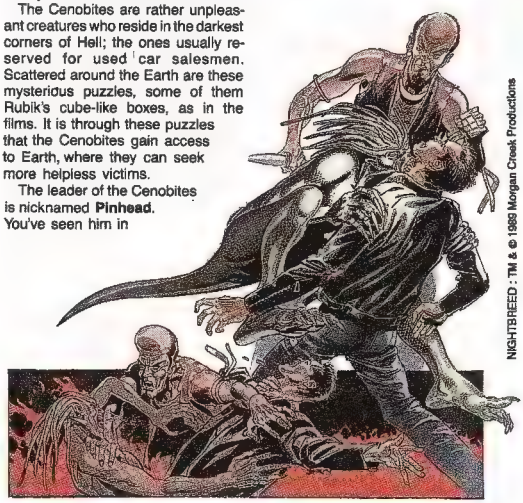
The Cenobites specialize in torture and mayhem. They like to make human souls suffer as much as possible before they take them. The comic will try to answer such questions as: "Why are the Cenobites doing this?" and "Where do the puzzle boxes come from?"

As the series progresses, we will learn that the Cenobites are the shock troops of an entity in Hell that has declared war on mankind.

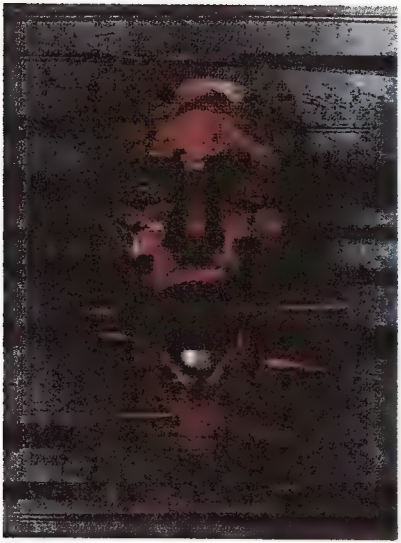
Dan Chichester, who is editing HELLRAISER, said he sees the comic as a 'shared universe' concept. Said Dan, "Even though it's an anthology book, all of the stories are taking place in the same universe, in the same world, in fact. Hopefully as time goes on, writers and artists will start picking up on other creators' stories and ideas."

Dan likened HELLRAISER to other 'shared universe' concepts, such as the WILDCARDS or THIEVES-WORLD novel series.

CLIVE BARKER'S HELLRAISER features a line-up of contributors that reads like a who's who of horror comics. The first issue alone boasts **John Bolton, Berni Wrightson, Jan Strnad, Ted McKeever**, and a new writer, **Eric Saltzgaber.**



NIGHTBREED ; TM & © 1989 Morgan Creek Productions



HELLRAISER : TM & © 1989 New World Entertainment

Illustration © 1989 Moebius

Future HELLRAISERS include **Kent Williams, Jon J Muth, Pat Mills, Doug Murray, Simon Bisley, Dan Spiegle, Kevin O'Neil, Dave McKean**, and **Neil Gaiman**. Clive Barker himself will not actually be doing any writing for the two new comics based on his work, but he will be serving in a supervisory position.

According to Dan, Clive "has approval over all art and story." Clive may even wind up contributing an illustration or two to HELLRAISER, as he is well-known for his illustration work.

Dan said he hopes to get some writers of horror novels to contribute to CLIVE BARKER'S HELLRAISER. "The couple I've spoken with briefly have expressed interest." The one horror writer Dan would most like to get is Clive Barker's biggest fan, **Stephen King.**

CLIVE BARKER'S HELLRAISER will be out in October, just in time for a haunted Halloween! (And yes, there are plans for a third *Hellraiser* movie! Reserve your seat at the theater now!)

Last, and certainly not least, on the lists of new projects from Epic is a deluxe trade paperback edition of THE ART OF MOEBIUS. The book is expected some time in late '89.

This will be a lavish 96-page book, with at least 50 pages in full, glorious color. There are about a half dozen two-page spreads in the book, some done in collaboration with **Jeff Darrow.**

The book will cover the full gamut of Moebius's distinguished career, from his early days on LT. BLUEBERRY to his work on METAL HURLANT to the present. Editor **Howard Zimmerman** estimates THE ART OF MOEBIUS will contain roughly 1/3 science-fiction pieces, 1/3 fantasy, and 1/3 miscellaneous.

Moebius (whose real name is **Jean Giraud**) has already had a long association with Epic, starting with the highly acclaimed graphic novel reprints of his work which began a few years ago. Currently Epic is reprinting Moebius's classic western series, LT. BLUEBERRY.

THE ART OF MOEBIUS book is actually being put together by the nice folks up at Byron Preiss Visuals, and is being distributed by Epic. It was **Byron Preiss** himself who originally had the idea of collecting some of Moebius's most fantastic art in one book.

Moebius is personally taking a hand in the selection of the artwork for the book. He is working in conjunction with his agents, **Jean-Marc** and **Randy Lofficier** out on the West Coast, while Howard and Byron put the package together on the East Coast.

THE ART OF MOEBIUS will feature some never-before-seen artwork. When Byron saw a sketchbook continuity done on the spot in Europe by Moebius, he flipped. He asked Moebius if pages from the sketchbook could be used in the book, and Moebius was gracious enough to agree. This previously unpublished sketchbook material will be appearing in the book.

Moebius has a reputation as a superb illustrator throughout the world. He has always been tremendously popular in his native France, and his following in America is growing every day. But as Howard pointed out, Moebius is not just a comic book artist.

"The extraordinary thing about Moebius is that both here and in Europe, he is absolutely not looked at as a comic book artist. He is taken quite seriously. His fine art is probably what sets him apart from most comic book artists. His fine art *is* fine art."

Gleaming, futuristic cities. . .bizarre alien creatures. . .strange, exotic worlds. . .these are just a few of the sights that await you in THE ART OF MOEBIUS. The book showcases Moebius's unique imagination and incredible sense of design.

Howard concluded that THE ART OF MOEBIUS is "the most complete compilation that I have ever seen of Moebius's work, covering every aspect of his work."

NIGHTBREED. CLIVE BARKER'S HELLRAISER. And THE ART OF MOEBIUS. Just three more reasons why Epic Comics keep getting better.

—Barry Dutter

MARVEL® A-Z

It's once again time for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE's annual preview of all our Marvel and Epic titles, that's right–Marvel A-Z. Because we were swamped by this summer's hugely successful "Atlantis Attacks" crossover, we've decided to forgo this year's MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE annual, but not without first detailing what lies in store in the coming months for your favorite books. As usual, we've interviewed writers and editors for the latest scoops, but this year we'll be bringing you Marvel A-Z in monthly installments. And kicking off this month's installment will be THE AGENT Graphic Novel, and we'll finish up with that Master of the Mystic Arts, Dr. Strange.

THE AGENT Graphic Novel

Written by **James D. Hudnall** and drawn by **John Ridgway.** 80 pages. $9.95.

Writer **James D. Hudnall** said of THE AGENT Graphic Novel, "Imagine **James Bond** versus the Marvel Universe. This is the story of **Rick Mason:** Secret Agent. I had always wanted to do a story about how someone with no super-powers, but who happens to be clever, can battle any super-villain, no matter how powerful, using only his intelligence and common sense."

Rick Mason is known in the espionage business as a free-lancer–a spy for hire. His specialty is obtaining intelligence on paranormals. He accepts a job from the head of **SHIELD, Nick Fury,** to investigate the takeover of a small Latin American country by a team of well trained super-powered mercenaries with names such as **Black Metal, Stealth, Quota,** the **Zapper,** and **Noise.**

But as **Rick Mason** sneaks into Costa Brava he has no idea that the **Kingpin** has learned of him and his mission and is determined to see that Mason fails at any cost.

James Hudnall also writes ALPHA FLIGHT and will introduce the events leading up to THE AGENT Graphic Novel in ALPHA FLIGHT #77.

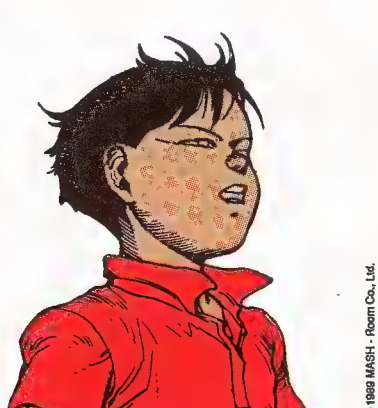
AKIRA

Written and illustrated by **Katsuhiro Otomo,** English language adaptation by **Jo Duffy** and computer color by **Steve Oliff.** An Epic Graphic Album series. 64 pages. $3.50.

AKIRA will continue re-presenting, for the first time in color, the Japanese best-selling comic book science-fiction series. The setting is Neo-Tokyo, where a power struggle rages between the government, rebel groups, and a teenage motorcycle gang. Their goal is to gain control of a mysterious being of awesome power known only as **Akira.**

In issue #13, **Akira** awakens from an imposed sleep, and the struggle to control him threatens to cause a civil war. Issue #16 reveals why **Akira** has been kept in a state of sleep for 30 years, and issue #17 will begin to show the horrifying repercussions of **Akira**'s awakening.

SPOILER WARNING: If you don't want to know some of the secrets and surprises coming up in your favorite Marvel comics–don't read this article! You've been warned!



AKIRA : TM & © 1989 MASH - Room Co., Ltd.

ALF

Written by **Michael Gallagher,** penciled by **Dave Manak.** $1.00.

"ALF is so popular on TV right now," said **Michael Gallagher,** "that we try to keep close continuity with it, where the characters are in their personal lives, etc."

Issue #23 will feature a full-length 22-page episode, "Around the World in 80 Hours." The transporter on **Alf**'s spaceship goes haywire, and **Alf** and a "friend" find themselves zipping around the globe–with quite a few surprises on the way. Issue #24 brings back **Alf**'s girlfriend, **Rhonda,** when the WOTIF computer on **Alf**'s ship projects the possibilities of "What If Rhonda had stayed on Earth and moved in with Alf?"

ALIEN LEGION

Written by **Chuck Dixon,** penciled by **Larry Stroman,** and inked by **Mark Farmer.** An Epic Comic. 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. Direct sales only. $1.50.

As per usual, the trek for the **Nomad** will be a long and hard one. Describing future issues of ALIEN LEGION, editor **Margaret Clark** says: "it's just basically blood, guts, gore, fighting, and the **Legion** getting more and more crummy assignments."

The focus will again be on the **Nomad**'s core members, **Sariger, Jugger, Torie,** and **Tamara,** but future issues will see strains in their interpersonal relationships. "The relationship between **Torie** and **Jugger,**" says **Margaret,** "will be on the skids for a while. And with **Tamara**'s impending pregnancy, the guys get all goofy while **Tamara** keeps telling them to 'shove off.'"

The increasing popular **Ik** brothers will be seeing more action, and **Spellik** will be spotlighted in issue #15. And in issue #15, in a story entitled "Vector Red," the **Union** orders the **Legion** to lift a band of mercenaries from a planet where the locals want them executed for crimes against sentient beings. So basically even the friendly are going to hate the **Legion,** and it's life as usual for **Nomad.**

ALPHA FLIGHT

Written by **James D. Hudnall** and drawn by **John Calimee.** 32 pages. Mando offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.50.

Expect the unexpected from Canada's premiere and beleaguered super-group.

"What I'm going to do with **Alpha Flight** is really shake things up," states writer **James Hudnall,** "So that one will have no idea what is coming next. The mood of the series will become darker, with more mystic elements."

The **Alphans** will have returned from the alternate Earth, where they fought evil versions of the Marvel super heroes, to the "real" Earth. Things aren't much better back home as they find that the Canadian government has stripped them of their title as the official super-team of Canada. A new **Gamma Flight,** composed of members of **Beta Flight** and the old **Gamma Flight,** is picked as replacements.

Issue #78 features a **Dr. Strange** cameo as he becomes plagued with strange visions which deal with **Alpha Flight**'s troubled future. Issues #79 and #80 deal with a group of American super-villains, consisting of **Scorpion, Asp, Necra** and the **Owl,** moving to Canada to escape the purges taking place in the U.S. in the Acts of Vengeance storyline. **Alpha Flight** takes up the trail of these villains and incurs the wrath of **Gamma Flight.**

Eventually things come to a head between the two Canadian super-groups, and the **Alphans** are arrested by **Gamma Flight** in issue #81. This issue also has the return of **Puck** and **Shaman,** who have been in the hospital since issue #76.

More of the mythical element in **Alpha Flight** is discovered in a story about the **Talisman** who lived before the **Talisman** of **Alpha Flight.** "I want to write about why they exist, examine the version of **Alpha Flight** that existed ten-thousand years ago and why there will always appear a version of **Alpha Flight** in Canada every ten-thousand years," explains **James Hudnall.** In this tale we learn more about the **Sorcerer** as we discover the mystic links that bind **Alpha Flight** to Canada's ancient past and destined future.

Eventually the events in **Alpha Flight** will lead to a war between the **Sorcerer** and **Talisman,** "And then things start to get really interesting," states **James Hudnall** with sinister glee in his voice.

AMAZING SPIDER MAN

Written by **David Michelinie,** penciled by **Erik Larsen,** and inked by **Al Gordon.** $1.00.

Spider-Man will have some major thinking to do through the next few issues, as he contemplates the reason for his acquisition of the **Captain Universe** power. "Although he has these god-like powers," says writer **David Michelinie,** "he doesn't have the god-like wisdom to determine who deserves to be saved and who doesn't."

At the same time, **Spidey** has to battle a couple of heavies as he's thrust into the Acts of Vengeance crossover. In issue #327, **Magneto** volunteers to take on **Spider-Man** to check out his personal theory on **Spider-Man**'s new powers. **Magneto** believes **Spider-Man** may be a late-blooming mutant as he was and might be a valuable asset in the inevitable war against humankind.

With issue #328, the **Hulk** is enlisted by **Sebastian Shaw** to take on **Spider-Man,** as **Shaw** offers the Hulk the right incentive–money! There is, however, a new twist to this **Hulk/Spider-Man** battle: this time **Spider-Man** is the stronger of the two.

In the final issue of the crossover, **Spider-Man** discovers the origin of his powers as he becomes **"Captain Spider-Man."** In this issue, **Spider-Man** also discovers the reason he was given his powers as the **Tri-Sentinel** storms Manhattan and attacks a power plant. Originally 3 separate prototype sentinels created by **Shaw** to destroy mutants, the **Tri-Sentinel** is a monstrosity with 3 heads, 3 times the height, and 3 times the power melded together by **Loki.**

Mary Jane will land a relatively small role on the soap opera "Secret Hospital," which, says **David,** "will keep her in the glamorous world she was in when she was modeling, but she won't be making zillions of dollars. There will also be a subplot that will lead to a resolution to the problems with **Jonathon Caesar.**"

David will also be developing the **Flash Thompson** romance angle. Flash's seemingly endless line of mindless bimbos will finally come to an end as he latches on to a woman from **Peter**'s past, the **Black Cat.** The **Black Cat,** says **David,** "will basically be trying to get back at **Peter** for not marrying her, and this will create problems because now **Flash** wants to hang out with other couples."

Finally, be on the lookout as **David** sees appearances by the **Punisher** and **Wolverine** in the near future.

THE AVENGERS

Written by **John Byrne,** penciled by **Paul Ryan,** and inked by **Danny Bulanadi.** $1.00.

The **Avengers** will be rebuilding a new Avengers Mansion on the original site. The **Vision** will return to the East Coast team–without the **Scarlet Witch. Sersei** will become an **Avenger.** In the wrapup of the Acts of Vengeance crossover saga the **Avengers** will be battling **Freedom Force** and the **Wizard.** In the aftermath of Acts of Vengeance, the **Avengers** will find themselves up against the **Red Skull.** This confrontation will become the center of a multi-part crossover that will happen among THE AVENGERS, AVENGERS WEST COAST, CAPTAIN AMERICA, and the new **Sub-Mariner** series. One highlight in this crossover will be the decision to revive the super-heroic team of World War II, the **Invaders.**

The **Avengers** will also become involved in a multi-part **Immortus** storyline in which the **Avengers** will try to stop **Immortus** from changing the past. **John Byrne** added that there will be a big surprise in store for the **Avengers** when, "A character will attempt to create a new universe." And the **Avengers** will face their greatest challenge in trying to stop that character from doing it.

AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT

Written by **Dwayne McDuffie** and others, with art by **Dwayne Turner, Chris Ivy,** and others $1.00.

"The definitive solo-**Avengers** book!"

Kicking off the Acts of Vengeance crossovers will be issue #26 with a story entitled "Tales from the Vault" by **McDuffie, Turner,** and **Ivy.** In this action-packed story, a group of prisoners escapes from the Vault prison, and **Hawkeye** and **Iron Man** try to stop them–with mixed results.

Issues #'s 27-28 continue the crossover as a team of **Avengers** join an underwater salvage crew going to the sunken Avenger's Island…not expecting that certain deadly rebels are free and lurking in the deep. This issue also contains a backup **Hawkeye** story by **Howard Mackie, Al Milgrom,** and **Don Heck.**

A new 6-part story by **Steve Gerber** premieres in issue #29, featuring **Hawkeye** and **Mockingbird.**

AVENGERS WEST COAST

Written and penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Paul Ryan.** $1.00.

In the Acts of Vengeance, the **West Coast Avengers** will fight the **U-Foes, Mole Man,** and in the climax, virtually every super-villain that's a part of the Acts of Vengeance plot. But the big emphasis in the coming months will be on the **Scarlet Witch. John** states that, "There are major, major, major developments on **Scarlet Witch** vis a vis the **Vision, Wonder Man, Magneto,** and it will build up to even bigger stuff with **Immortus.** And we will also nail down exactly how the **Scarlet Witch's** power works." **Quicksilver** will also be appearing and **John** promises that he will answer a lot of questions concerning him.

The **Red Skull** is not thrilled to see that the original **Human Torch** is back. And his desire to destroy the original **Human Torch** is the basis for a multi-part saga that will cross over among THE AVENGERS, AVENGERS WEST COAST, CAPTAIN AMERICA, and the new **Sub-Mariner** series. One highlight in this fray will be the decision by the original **Human Torch, Captain America,** and the **Sub-Mariner** to reform their team from World War II, the **Invaders.**

BLACK KNIGHT
Limited Series

Written by **Roy** and **Dann Thomas,** drawn by **Tony DeZuniga.** Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.50.

After succumbing to the curse of the Ebony Blade, **Dane Whitman** is brought back to life by **Victoria Bentley**–but only by having the spirit of the original **Black Knight** enter his body.

Whose spirit will ultimately live as the **Black Knight?**

Mordred, Morgan Le Fay, and the **Dreadknight** provide the villainy, while **Captain Britain** and the **Valkyrie** provide the guest-star glamour in this 4-issue Limited Series featuring one of the most popular **Avengers.**

BLACK PANTHER
Limited Series

Written by **Don McGregor** and drawn by **Gene Colon.** 52 pages. A Marvel Graphic Album Limited Series.

Coming off a successful run in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, **Black Panther** returns–in his own four-issue Limited Series! **Don McGregor** returns to the helm as writer for the **Black Panther.**

"We return **Black Panther** to Wakanda," **Don** says, "in a story dealing with the trade arrangements between the United States and Wakanda and the corruption involved in it."

While this will take place after the events in the MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS series, "Panther's Quest," it has roots that go farther back. As **Don** puts it, "This Limited Series is more of a sequel to the 'Panther's Rage' storyline of the '70s. It will bring back many characters from that series, as well as create a new supporting cast."

The series will bring the **Black Panther** to a major crossroad in his life. "And the events which take place in it will leave a mark on the **Black Panther,** forever changing his life."

CAPTAIN AMERICA

Written by **Mark Gruenwald** and drawn by **Kieron Dwyer.** $1.00.

"In the past I have always believed that variety was the spice of life. As a result I tried to have **Cap** come up against as many different villains as possible. In the upcoming year I am going to change my philosophy somewhat and give **Cap** a common foe whom he comes up against time and again," said writer **Mark Gruenwald.**

This new tactic involves focusing on four main characters in the series. **Captain America, Cap**'s would-be love interest, **Diamondback,** the villainous **Red Skull** and his partner in crime, **Crossbones** (known collectively as **Skull** & **Crossbones**). **John Walker, USAgent,** will be an occasional odd fifth wheel to this group.

"Diamondback and **Crossbones** will have some history between them that **Cap** doesn't know about, and of course everyone is aware of the long history that **Cap** and **Red Skull** have," **Mark** says. "I am narrowing my focus on the series so as to get more intense with the relationships of the characters."

This new focus will allow things such as how **Cap**'s time away from government service affected him and whether or not his views have changed.

Captain America will continue its current 17-page main story and 5-page back-up, "I found that reducing the main story to 17 pages an issue from 22 has improved my storytelling," states **Mark,** "I still put in the same amount of story but trim all the fat. This makes for a much tighter story. The back-up feature will allow me to study other supporting characters that might have been otherwise ignored in the events of the main storyline."

CLASSIC X-MEN

Classic tales written by **Chris Claremont,** penciled by **John Byrne,** and inked by **Terry Austin;** new stories written by **Chris Claremont** and others, and illustrated by **Mike Collins** and others. 32 pages. $1.25.

CLASSIC X-MEN will continue re-presenting as its main feature the vintage tales by **Claremont, Byrne,** and **Austin,** as coming issues begin wrapping up the conclusion to the landmark "Dark Phoenix Saga."

Chris, finding a little extra time, will also begin writing some of the issue's back-up stories, and a bevy of British artists, including **Mike Collins,** will handle the drawing chores. And after an extended layoff from drawing the **X-Men, John Byrne** will contribute a brand new cover for issue #43.

Among the back-ups in production is a flashback story which explores **Cyclops** and **Mr. Sinister**'s childhoods together in the orphanage.

CLOAK AND DAGGER

Written by **Terry Austin** and drawn by **Mike Vosburg.** 32 pages. Mando offset paper. Direct sales only. $1.50.

Cloak is back!

Issue #8 features **Cloak**'s return and explores just where he's been while **Dagger,** his cohort in crime-fighting, has been blinded and hunted by the evil **Ecstacy.**

The following issue is double-sized and features an Acts of Vengeance crossover as a group of villains on a mission for **Doctor Doom** comes to enlist the aid of **Cloak** and **Dagger,** whom they mistakenly think are bad guys, in their war against the **Avengers. She-Hulk, Iron Man, Wasp,** and **Thor** become involved in the goings on. That issue also features pinup pages by **John Byrne, Walt Simonson, Charles Vess, Howard Chaykin,** and **Jim Lee.**

Writer **Terry Austin** also promises to put the duo up against events they have not encountered before, "Such as a magical menace they are ill-equipped to deal with."

Look for a possible crossover between CLOAK AND DAGGER and DAREDEVIL. "I have gotten tons of mail ever since **Dagger** lost her sight to team her up with **Daredevil,** Marvel's other super hero who had to overcome blindness."

As for the future of the once-again alive **Cloak** and the blind **Dagger, Terry Austin** comments, **"Dagger**'s loss of sight will stand the relationship between the two on its head. Before **Cloak** felt he needed **Dagger,** with her carefree attitude, more than she needed him. Now the tables are turned, somewhat. **Dagger** will learn to survive and function in the world despite her disability."

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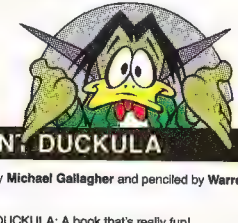


COUNT DUCKULA

Written by **Michael Gallagher** and penciled by **Warren Kremer.** $1.00.

COUNT DUCKULA: A book that's really fun!

"The characters in this book are classic," says writer **Michael Gallagher,** "They are so strong and thought out that their possibilities are endless."

Michael plans to prove just that in issue #8 with a "very special story" inked by **Bill Sienkiewicz** and involving talk show host **Geraldo Rivera,** who invites **Count Duckula** to appear on his TV show. So naturally, **Duckula** transports his whole castle to New York!"

A full-length **Danger Mouse** story is also promised at some point, as well as continued **Danger Mouse** back-up stories. **"Danger Mouse** is usually just a back-up," said **Michael,** "but the fans really want more of him!"

Future plans for COUNT DUCKULA are secret at this point, but you can bet they'll be teeth-tingling!

CONAN SAGA

Written by **Roy Thomas** and illustrated by **John Buscema, Alfredo Alcala,** and others. 64 pages. Black and white magazine. For Mature Readers. $2.25.

CONAN SAGA will continue to re-present classic tales from SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN as well as other **Conan**-related comics.

Certain artists will be highlighted as in "Mirror of the Manicore" (SSOC #58) by **Kerry Gammill** in issue #36, and "People of the Dark" (SSOC #34) by **Barry Windsor-Smith** in issue #37. Totally new pieces of art will be presented by artist **Fred Carrillo** in issue #33.

Future issues of CONAN SAGA will also reprint the **Conan** newspaper strip in its original order, as we learn more about everyone's favorite Cimmerian and the Hyborian Age.

CONAN THE BARBARIAN

Written by **Gerry Conway,** then **Michael Higgins;** penciled by **Mark Texeira,** then penciled by **Ron Lim** and inked by **Dan Adkins.** $1.00.

Conan the barbarian, **Robert E. Howard**'s great hero from a long gone era, stays true to form in the upcoming year.

Issue #226 starts a two-issue storyline which has **Conan** hired for his specialty, thievery. In part I, titled "Shape in the Shadow," **Conan** is hired by strange priests to steal a special gem which holds special significance to their cult. What **Conan** is not told about is the dark truth behind the powers of the gem, which are discovered in part II of the story, titled "Catspaw."

Up next, **Conan** is once again involved in a two-part story, this one covering issues #228 and #229. "Red Teeth" has **Conan** getting involved in the sinister politics of a town where the leader has the good fortune of having all his enemies vanish, never to be heard from again. **Conan** smells something rotten and proceeds to investigate. What he discovers is that the town leader has found a tribe of albino cannibals in the forests, and he has made a deal that benefits both sides. He will allow the cannibals to live so long as they remove those he considers a threat to himself. This keeps his enemies in check and provides a food source for the cannibals.

The new creative team of writer **Michael Higgins,** penciler **Ron Lim,** and inker **Dan Adkins** begins soon after. They plan to return to a previously unexplored period in **Conan**'s youth and discover how he spent his formative years.

CRITICAL MASS
Limited Series

Written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark,** art by **Gray Morrow, Kyle Baker, Klaus Janson,** and others. An Epic Graphic Album. Direct Sales only. $4.95.

POWERLINE, DR. ZERO and ST. GEORGE are the three titles that make up the "Shadowline Saga." It is the story of super heroes and the uses and abuses that come with that territory.

CRITICAL MASS is a 7-issue Limited Series which pulls the three Shadowline books under one title. The regular issues of the three Shadowline books ended with issue #8 of each title.

In CRITICAL MASS, the United States has been targeted for destruction. A man by the name of **Clerk** has found a way to cause a primary nuclear power plant in the central US to go superprompt critical. This would result in a nuclear explosion far worse than any past nuclear accidents. The effects of this strategically located nuclear plant would cause a chain reaction of explosions in the rest of America's nuclear power plants. The end result of this would reduce the United States to a nuclear wasteland.

The race to stop this horrible scenario from becoming a reality has **Powerline, Dr. Zero** and **St. George** taking separate paths to the same goal: stop **Clerk.**

"The saga of CRITICAL MASS will be told from the perspective of the respective main characters–in the **Dr. Zero** story you see his specifics, but you don't see them in the Powerline chapters, etc. Sort of like **Akira Kurosawa**'s film 'Rashomon,'" explains series writer **D.G. Chichester.**

The series travels to the far corners of the globe in a classic story of good versus evil and the struggle for survival.

DAMAGE CONTROL
Limited Series

Written by **Dwayne McDuffie** and art by **Ernie Colon.** $1.00.

The sequel to last winter's popular limited series is not only **Damage Control**'s first multi-part storyline, but it also ties into this fall's Acts of Vengeance crossover. The indefatigable engineering firm has its hands full trying to save New York from collapse when numerous Acts of Vengeance battles nearly level the city. Meanwhile, **Damage Control** must deal with new owners, a new headquarters, an employee strike, several other employees trapped in the high security super-villain prison known as The Vault, and a fighting mad **Punisher,** who has discovered **Damage Control**'s secret connection to the **Kingpin.** Other guest stars will include **Captain America, Thor, She-Hulk, Tony Stark, Robbie Baldwin** (and his alter ego), **Ed Koch,** and super-villains galore.

DAREDEVIL

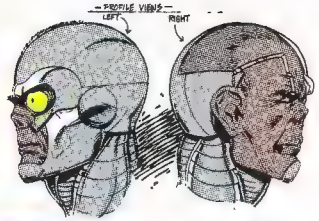
Written by **Ann Nocenti,** penciled by **John Romita Jr.,** and inked by **Al Williamson.** $1.00.

"Daredevil will maintain the same somber atmosphere that fans of the series have come to expect," assures writer **Ann Nocenti.** "He will continue traveling across country for a while and will even journey to hell."

But before **Hornhead** goes to hell, there will be the traditional Christmas issue with #277. **Ann** said, **"Daredevil** will come across a psychiatrist who is torn between his love for his wife and his scientific fascination for her insanity. The story will deal with how **Daredevil** becomes involved in this complex situation and the measures he takes regarding it."

Issue #278 will have **Daredevil** and company tempted to hell by Mephisto. **Daredevil** and **Number Nine** embark on a quest to find **Medusa** and **Black Bolt**'s child, who was banished in the INHUMANS Graphic Novel. "The hell story will go on for three issues. **Daredevil** will discover a hell not of fire and brimstone, rather a psychological hell which plays on the fears and dreads of those who enter," **Ann** said. Also during **Daredevil**'s exploits in hell the **Silver Surfer** will make an appearance.

After those events, **Daredevil** will have a coming to terms with himself, and the result of this will have him returning to Hell's Kitchen in Manhattan.



DEATHLOK

Written by **Dwayne McDuffie** and **Gregory Wright,** penciled by **Jackson Guice,** and inked by **Scott Williams.** A Marvel Graphic Album Four-Issue Limited Series.

"This is your basic cyborg story," explains **Gregory Wright,** "It's similar to the old **Deathlok** in basic concept in that a man is transformed against his will, into a powerful cyborg weapon. But, this character is set in current time instead of the future.

"A corporation has been building military weapons for high profit," continues **Gregory,** "And **Michael Collins,** an employee, discovers this and confronts the corporate heads. He is killed, and his mind is put in a cyborg body."

The irony of the story is that **Collins** is a pacifist trapped in a killing machine. This is the story of his struggle to get away, control the weapon, and use it for good.

"It's not the story of a killing machine," said **Gregory,** "It's the story of a man trying to maintain what humanity he can."

THE DESTROYER

Written by **Will Murray** and drawn by **Lee Weeks.** A Marvel black and white magazine. $2.25.

Remo Williams is the **Destroyer,** a secret agent working for CURE, a government agency so secret it officially doesn't even exist. His partner and mentor is **Chiun,** an old Korean man who is the master of Sinanju, the martial art from where all other martial arts originated.

Fans may already know of **Remo** and **Chiun,** as they are the heroes of nearly 80 novels and a motion picture, "Remo Williams: The Adventure Begins."

This series is more than just an adaptation. The current writer of the **Destroyer** novels, **Will Murray,** has been brought in to handle the writing for the Marvel Comics version. This insures that what goes on in the comic will become an official part of the **Destroyer** universe, affecting the continuity of the novels.

Each issue will contain a single story, some of which will be adaptations of **Destroyer** adventures from the books, while others will be original stories.

The tone of the series will range from the outlandish (**James Bond**-ish) to the grim and intense (**Punisher**-like) as the **Destroyer** goes up against old foes from the books such as a microchip with an artificial intelligence which can invade any computer system, to **Nulhc,** an evil master of Sinanju and former pupil of **Chiun.** There will also be new villains created for the **Destroyer** that readers of the Marvel comics version will be the first to see.

DOCTOR STRANGE

Written by **Roy** and **Dann Thomas,** penciled by **Jackson Guice,** and inked by **Jose Marzan;** back-ups written by **Roy Thomas** and **R.J.M. Lofficier** and drawn by **Dan Day.** 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. Direct sales only. $1.50.

So what's up for the Master of the Mystic Arts? A lot according to **Doc Strange** writer **Dann Thomas.** "There will be this book out by co-writer **Morgana Blessing** that tells people more than he'd like them to know about what **Doctor Strange** is supposed to be, and we'll be carrying on the story of **Doc**'s kid brother who he has just discovered alive after assumably being killed 10 years ago--well, not alive since he's a vampire!"

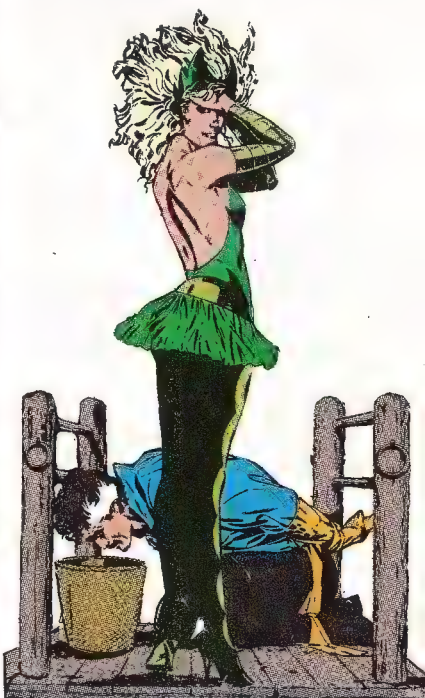
Sandwiched between these two plotlines **Doctor Strange** will be thoroughly entwined in the Acts of Vengeance crossover. In the first installment, **Doctor Strange** appears on the "Twelfth Hour" TV show in order to debunk himself and thus **Morgana**'s book. Because of the exposure the book has given him, however, **Doc** is put in a rather precarious position when the **Hobgoblin** appears at the TV studio, and **Doc**'s forced to reveal his powers to defend himself.

The second installment sees **Doc** facing the **Enchantress** and the "new" **Executioner.** The **Enchantress** has decided that **Doc** is too powerful a rival to have hanging around, and she endeavors to seduce him in order to absorb his powers. **Doctor Strange**'s only chance for help is **Clea,** but she's off in her own dimension fighting the Mindless Ones.

In the final installment, titled "Great Oaks from Little Arkons Grow," **Roy** and **Dann** bring back the old sword-and-sorcery foe of the **Avengers--Arkon,** complete with his helmet, shield, and quiver of lightning bolts.

Issue #14 will begin a multi-issue Return of the Vampires storyline. But according to **Roy,** when someone does manage to reverse the monteste formula, "the vampires don't just come back, they did all perish. But, the possibility of them existing is reinstated." Most of the vampires will be new, including the predecessor of **Dracula** and the king of all vampires, **Varnae.** This, however, doesn't mean that certain vampires can't be reconstituted by special means, which leaves open some very interesting possibilities.

"All the background material regarding the monteste formula is being covered in a backup feature in issues #9-14," says **Roy,** "which deals with the darkhold and in particular the darkhold and its relationship to vampirism."



If you HATE yuppies, then you must buy YUPPIES FROM HELL.™

While writer and artist of this 48 page one-shot, **Barbara Slate**, concedes that is probably true, she also says this is a book for everyone. . .including yuppies.

"It's about what it's like to live in New York, and the people in New York," she said. "I came here seventeen years ago, and I'm still amazed at the goings on. So, it's my view of New York, after hearing and observing countless conversations, statements, movement, what people do, and just who they are."

And, just who are yuppies? According to Barbara, they are those who can afford not to have taste. They are the ultimate consumer.

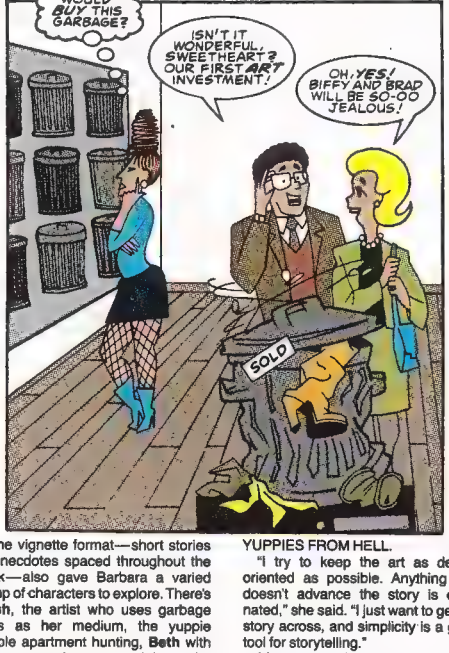
"I've listened to conversations about who has a house closer to the ocean, who could get the bigger place—and unfortunately, they have enough money to do it.

"If you buy things that make sense to you, and because you love them, then you are not a yuppie," continued Barbara." Yuppies just go with a trend, and worry about what their friends will think."

In a variety of 11, 1, and 2 page stories, YUPPIES FROM HELL explores the New York art scene, apartment hunting in the Big Apple, the life of a struggling actress, and just the drama of human relationships.

"This city is really outrageous," said Barbara. "I've listened to artists talking about their work, looked at it, and still didn't know what it was. Yet, somebody buys it even though it has a $30,000 price tag. I've gone to look at an apartment only to find that a subway comes by every 15 minutes and shakes the whole place!

"So, some of it is based on things that happened to me, and then some of the characters are based on friends of mine—like **Jane** who does commercials. I've listened to her stories for years."


WHO WOULD BUY THIS GARBAGE?
ISN'T IT WONDERFUL, SWEETHEART? OUR FIRST ART INVESTMENT!
OH, YES! BIFFY AND BRAD WILL BE SO-OO JEALOUS!
SOLD

The vignette format—short stories or anecdotes spaced throughout the book—also gave Barbara a varied group of characters to explore. There's **Trash**, the artist who uses garbage cans as her medium, the yuppie couple apartment hunting, **Beth** with all her romantic woes, and Jane who will do anything to be in a TV Commercial.

"You can just get more into the personalities with this format," Barbara said. "Working in this style, I do a bio of each character down to their favorite color almost."

Barbara began her artistic career designing greeting cards, and then created a comic strip titled "Ms. Liz," which appeared regularly in COSMOPOLITAN. Later, the character was licensed out for mugs, T-shirts, greeting cards and the like. But, Barbara says that the comic form is a nice change for her.

"In a comic strip, you go for the punch, you have to get the humor in quickly. In a comic book, you can really get into somebody's psyche. After awhile, your characters just talk and you don't have to worry about what they're going to say." she said.

"I started out as an artist," she continued, "But I always liked to write. I love combining the art and the written word, and comic books are the perfect place for me to be because I can do it all here!"

Barbara also put a lot of thought into what her art style would say visually in YUPPIES FROM HELL.

"I try to keep the art as design oriented as possible. Anything that doesn't advance the story is eliminated," she said. "I just want to get the story across, and simplicity is a good tool for storytelling."

It's mainly the characters that Barbara is interested in—the real estate agent with the big nose, the yuppies with no chins. They are either people that Barbara has seen before, or they are combinations of people, but they exist for her. How they look is the important thing. Her style makes them recognizable at a glance.

And, Barbara thinks that this is a book that will appeal to a wide variety of readers who will be able to relate to her characters.

After all, YUPPIES FROM HELL is about making it in the big city. That's something that people from all walks of life have experienced, or have thought about experiencing. It's wonderful. It's exciting. But, it's not easy, and people want to know about it."

So, Barbara admits that this might be a book for people who don't like yuppies, but. . ."Yuppies can buy this too and laugh at themselves. . .the problem is that yuppies don't know who they are. They don't realize that they are yuppies.

"I just want people to laugh mainly," Barbara concluded. "And perhaps everyone may see a little bit of themselves as well."

—Renee Witterstaetter

THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS: 1980 (PART II)

1980 heralded the start of a new decade, a new administration in Washington—but more importantly, new Marvel Comics series! The earliest debut was KING CONAN, the exploits of the Cimmerian warrior's later years. Introducing court regulars such as **Prospero, Trocero**, and **Conan's** son, **Conn**, along with new threats from the arch-wizard **Thoth-Amon**, writer **Roy Thomas** adapted Conan tales of **L. Sprague deCamp** and **Lin Carter** to give this quarterly book a distinct identity, different from that of its sister mags, CONAN THE BARBARIAN and SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN.

Fans of Roy's sword-and-sorcery adaptations had yet another new venue for their pleasure, as the Thomas/**Tim Conrad** adaptation of **Robert E. Howard's** *Almuric* was a staple of Marvel's most exciting premiere of the year—EPIC ILLUSTRATED! Though Stan's Soapbox spent an entire month drilling the original title of the book—Odyssey—into our heads, EPIC ILLUSTRATED was a smash success, a comics package with the range of HEAVY METAL but with the narrative integrity that was Marvel's alone. (Get the idea I miss this book?)

Under the expert editorial hand of **Archie Goodwin**, EPIC ILLUSTRATED also hosted such features as: a new **Stan Lee/John Buscema Silver Surfer** tale; the serialization of **Jim Starlin's** "Metamorphosis Odyssey," which introduced **Vanth Dreadstar** to the world; **Ken Steacy's** first adaptation of the stories of **Harlan Ellison**; and exciting new stories and art by **Wendy Pini, Carl Potts, Frank Frazetta, Art Suydam, Rich Corbin, Mike Kaluta, Howard Chaykin, Rick Veitch, Steve Bissette, Doug Moench, Paul Gulacy, Bruce Jones, Mike Saenz, Marc Hempel**, and **George Bush** (not the one you're thinking of). And this was just in its first year!

Other Marvel magazines, though not new, served as showcases for new titles, characters and ideas. MARVEL PREVIEW introduced **Paradox**, a **Bill Mantlo** hero whose exploits transpired 200 years from now on an industrialized Moon. Also showcased in MARVEL PREVIEW were the 1930's swashbuckler, **Dominic Fortune**, and other fantasy shorts, under the banner "Bizarre Adventures"; the Arthurian mage, **Merlin**, in a novel-length tale by **Doug Moench** and **John Buscema**; and the ever-macabre **Moon Knight**, who quite fittingly was teamed with the **Shroud** as a back-up feature.

MOON KNIGHT at last premiered in his own book in 1980, after years of being the most intriguing guest-star around. In adventures by the Moench/**Bill Sienkiewicz** team that took him to greatness, the Fist of Konshu's origin was revealed at last, as well as the first appearances of his archnemesis, **Bushman**, and his coterie of street agents. . .most notably the articulate bum, **Crawley**, who nearly lost his life to the **Skid Row Slasher.**

Speaking of Dominic Fortune, as we just were, he also headlined an issue of MARVEL PREMIERE, in which he met the quite young **Dum Dum Dugan!** The **Black Panther** wrapped up the loose ends of his JUNGLE ACTION run in the pages of PREMIERE, as he struggled with the **Soul-Strangler** and found out just who did kill **Angela Lynne.** And MARVEL PREMIERE also lived up to its name by giving **Wonder Man** his premiere solo adventure, in battle against the **Maggia;** by giving **Doctor Who** his first American appearance, leading to his own book; and by giving new Western hero, **Caleb Hammer**, an unusual and memorable **Peter Gillis** creation, his first appearance anywhere!

Also appearing for the first time anywhere was **Jennifer Walters**. . .also known as THE SAVAGE SHE-HULK! In Stan Lee's first comics script since 1972, young lawyer Jen received transfusion blood from her cousin, **Bruce**, and the rest is history! Jennifer's supporting cast included **Buck Bukowski**, the assistant DA who aggravated her professional life; **Zapper**, the 60's retro-type who harbored a secret crush on her; and **Sheriff Walters**, her own father who viewed the **She-Hulk** as a societal menace! Framed by mobster **Nick Trask**, the man who had killed her best friend, **Jill**, She-Hulk didn't rest till she'd put him behind bars, and went on to face off with **Iron Man**, the swamp demons of La Hacienda, **Man-Thing**, the **Word**, and the amazonian **Ultima**—wrapping up the year being saved from death by none other than the man named **Morbius!** Her life was anything but predictable!

While that covers the extent of series and character premieres in 1980, Marvel also released some unique items that year that deserve special mention. MARVEL TREASURY EDITION, for example, was largely content to produce tabloid reprints of great past Marvel tales. But TREASURY #25 was the one-of-a-kind tale, "Spider-Man and the Hulk at the Winter Olympics"! Web-Head and Green-Skin found themselves amidst a war between the **Mole Man** and **Kala**, Queen of the Underworld (a distinctive item for anyone's resume)! And TREASURY #26 not only reprinted the **Hulk's** bouts with the **Harpy** and **Modok**, but tossed in an all-new **Wolverine/Hercules** feature for good measure!

MARVEL FUN AND GAMES was a new magazine filled with mazes, riddles, and the like, all highlighting the heroes of the Marvel pantheon. And SPIDEY SUPER STORIES continued to provide easy-reading adventures of **Spider-Man**—kind of like comics with training wheels!

But most unusual of all, 1980 saw the publication of FRANCIS, BROTHER OF THE UNIVERSE! This one-shot told the life story of none other than **Saint Francis of Assisi**, with beautiful **John Buscema/Marie Severin** art and scripting by the ramrod of POWER MAN AND IRON FIST, **Jo Duffy!** It just proves that there's no second-guessing when it comes to what's next from mighty Marvel!

One last 1980 premiere remains to be covered, but we'll save it for next month, when we look at Marvel's space and science-fiction comics—does that give you any clues? Think back, and check with us right here in thirty days!

—Brian Nelson

MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

Let's say you want to get on the She-Hulk's good side (though some to think of it, she doesn't have a bad side) and pick up her original debut. Here's what you can expect to pay for that, and the other back issues we've covered this month at your local comics specialty shop. As always, our source is **Robert Overstreet's** THE COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE. We'll remember this is only a guide; actual prices may vary and should be used for copies in fair or poor condition.

	CONDITION		
	Good	Fine	Mint
• **EPIC ILLUSTRATED** (magazine)			
1	35	1.00	2.00
2-4	25	.75	1.50
• **FRANCIS BROTHER OF THE UNIVERSE**			
1		.30	.60
• **KING CONAN**			
1	.50	1.50	3.00
2-4	.35	1.00	2.00
• **MARVEL PREMIERE**			
52-56		.40	.80
57 (1st Amer Dr Who)	.35	1.00	2.00
• **MARVEL PREMIERE** (magazine)			
2-4	.35	1.00	2.00
• **MARVEL TREASURY EDITION**			
24 (1st Starlord)		.50	1.00
• **MOON KNIGHT**			
1	.30	.90	1.80
2		.50	1.00
• **SAVAGE SHE-HULK**			
1-11	.25	.75	1.50

NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET : TM & © 1989 Fourth New Line - Heron Venture

I FOUGHT THE CLAW, AND THE CLAW WON

Send your letters to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016

Attention, correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that information upon request!

This month's suggestively savage letter column title comes to us direct from Paul Hughes of Woburn, MN. Thanks a lot, Paul! But, hey, after fighting those claws, shouldn't you be heading over to intensive care instead of sending in letter column titles?

And that reminds us: Unless the rest of you out there are also on your way to intensive care, we'll be waiting to see your snappy titles for this column turn up in the mail any day now. After all, we do need a brand new title each and every month! And to top it all off, we'll even thank you right here in print! So if we don't get one from you soon, we'll expect a note from your doctor. Remember, we know the guy with the claws personally.

Yo, MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I read with great interest your promotion for your forthcoming NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET Magazine in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #79. Not because I am a big fan of the **Freddy Krueger** films, but because I am a big **Steve Gerber** fan. I am very glad that you guys have put your past differences behind you. If any writer can make the ELM STREET Magazine work, he can.

You mention that this is only the first of many new projects that Steve will be working on. Great! But what about his greatest and most famous creation—**Howard the Duck**? It has been three years or so since Howard's last appearance in Marvel Comics and nearly a decade since Steve last wrote him. Please reunite Howard with his creator; no other writer captured Howard as well as Steve.

The success of the sensational **She-Hulk**'s new book and EXCALIBUR, both of which are played for laughs, obviously proves that there is a demand for humor books, and HOWARD THE DUCK was brilliantly funny and is sorely missed. Please don't leave him in comic book limbo just because of the failure of that God-awful film. The Howard in the film bore no resemblance to the Marvel Comics Howard except that they were both ducks; there, the resemblance ends. Just because the film was spectacularly bad, that does not mean that the comics-buying public is turned off of Howard, especially a HOWARD comic book written by Steve Gerber.

If you don't want to commit yourselves to an ongoing series, how about a limited series or maybe a short run as a back-up feature in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS? See what the reaction is, and if it is favorable, give Howard his own book back. I'm counting on you.

Derek Holmes
213 Wallasey Rd.
Wallasey, Merseyside
L44 2AD ENGLAND

Well, Derek, how does a Howard the Duck appearance in SHE-HULK #13, written by Steve Gerber, grab you?

Dear Marvel,

What?! Did I see **Stan "the Man" Lee** in the Hulk's jury in the TV-movie THE TRIAL OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK?! If I did, should there not be a No-Prize winging my way? I should think so!

Matthew Caruso
20 Chalmers St.
Manchester, CT 06040

Nice catch, Matthew! That certainly was Stan the Man in ol' Greenskin's jury box. After all, if the court was going to put together a jury of the Hulk's peers, who better to include than the guy who (along with artist Jack Kirby) created him in the first place?

We're *still* trying to figure out why the Abomination wasn't prosecuting though...

Oops! Judging from the decidedly yellow tone this page has taken on, we're either suffering from dull, waxy build-up or it's time for our LETTER OF THE MONTH! You probably know how our Letter of the Month works—how we scale our mountain of mail each month to find a letter (or sometimes even two) that we think will be of particular interest and print it against a snazzy yellow background—but how many of you really know how dull, waxy build-up works?

This month, our Letter of the Month asks a question that you probably won't find the answer to in the OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT BOOK...

Marvel Age Magazine,

Plenty of people write in asking how one can become an artist or writer for Marvel. What I'd like to know is how one can become an *editor* at Marvel.

One more thing: I just read the COMET MAN Limited Series (So what if I'm three years out of date?), and just wanted to ruin **Bill Mumy's** life. I noticed the song "Fish Heads" in one of the radio broadcasts Max was listening to. Well, Bill Mumy either wrote or sang the song since he's part of the novelty group **Barnes** and **Barnes**.

Dan Wilson
Rt. 7, Box 146
Andalusia, AL 36420

So you say you're not interested in becoming a writer or artist, Dan? You say you want to know how to become a Marvel editor instead?

The only thing that all of our editors have in common (besides their socks, that is) is that they all live in or around New York City and they all have some sort of previous experience in publishing. For some,

that means that they've been writing or drawing comics for a while. But others got their starts as assistant editors here at the House of Ideas. And still others have publishing experience in areas completely outside comics.

In short, an editor's job comes down to making sure that everything runs smoothly and that everyone involved is putting forth the best work he or she can. If you've proven that you can do that, then you've got what it takes to become one of the few, the proud, the underpaid—a Marvel editor!

Oh, and before we completely forget, you're right about COMET MAN (and more recently, DREAMWALKER) co-writer Bill Mumy's also being half of the musical group Barnes and Barnes. But what makes you think that revealing that little secret will ruin Bill's life? If *you'd* written a song about fish heads (with such immortal lines as "Took a fish head/ To a movie/ Didn't have to pay/ To get it in"), wouldn't *you* want the world to know you'd done it?

Well, it looks like we're coming into the stretch on this month's letter column, but before we wrap things up, we just want to take a minute or two for a little change of pace. As you may recall, back in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #78, we ran a letter from Den Elms which suggested that characters such as Wolverine and the Punisher should drop their costumes in favor of more realistic and functional dark clothing. Well, in the time since then, we've received a flood of letters from people taking the other side of the debate, so we figured we'd share some of their thoughts with you.

Many of our correspondents, such as Jeremy Ian Barth of Singapore, took the time to point out the more functional aspects of our heroes' wardrobes. "In reference to the Punisher [Den] stated that the Punisher's skull motif is 'a perfect target for any well-trained sniper.' But the truth is, that is the very reason why he wears that skull motif on his chest!" Jeremy writes. "It has been established since the Punisher's limited series in '85 that the Punisher wears it so that when gunmen try to shoot him, they aim for the skull, as that is where he wears his Kevlar bullet-proof armor."

Moreover, lots of the folks who wrote in stressed the psychological edge heroes' costumes can provide. "Some costumes are trademarks and give the hero an edge simply because the crooks know the hero's reputation. I've seen **Spider-Man** break up a gang of thugs simply by showing his face," **says Dave Ferris of Nepean, Ontario. Pedro Alvarez Jr. of Philadelphia, PA adds,** "Most importantly, a costume represents a hero and his ideals and personality. Heroes take their costumes seriously, for when they put them on, they are no longer average people—they are heroes, fighters for justice. **Captain America** was greatly hurt that he had to turn in his costume to the government, for to him, it was much more than cloth—it was an extension of the hero, the legend of Captain America."

Lon Wolf of Maple Shade, NJ summed up a lot people's arguments when he wrote, "I admit that most of Den's ideas and thoughts are good points. Realism tends to solidify most fictional media (television, film, books, etc.). But I don't read comic books for realism. I read comic books to escape.

"Life is tough enough and the news is filled with the doom and gloom of everyday reality. I very much look forward to my evenings spent reading

about my favorite mutants or an altruistic arachnid....It's nice when the Punisher uses exact replicas of modern-day weaponry, and it's fine if Spider-Man were to meet **Vice President Dan Quayle**, but that's not real important to me. I like the crazy and colorful costumes some heroes wear. I like most of the beautifully long capes that flow in the air. I don't even mind that **Bruce Banner**'s clothes don't cut off the **Hulk**'s circulation when he's transformed into the **Gray Goliath**." **Or as Matt Slocum (who asked us to withhold his address) put it,** "There should be some realism included in comics, but not so much as to ruin the fantasy side. With realism and imagination combined, how can you lose?"

And on that note, we're going to put an end to "The Great Costume Debate." Thanks to everyone who wrote in — especially the folks whose letters we didn't have space to print. And, of course, we have to thank Den himself for starting the whole thing in the first place!

But while we may be closing the door on our little discussion...at least for the time being, that doesn't mean you can't continue it with your friends in the privacy of your own homes. And if you're at a loss for someone to share your views with, why not scribble out a note to one of our friendly MARVEL CORRESPONDENTS? (Hey, who says this isn't the Mighty Marvel Age of Sneaky Segues?) After all, they've been neighborly enough to give you their names and addresses, right here on this page. Why not return the favor by jotting off a quick missive or two? Before you know it, you might just be the best-dressed hero on your block!

MARVEL® CORRESPONDENTS

If you want to be listed in this space yourself, simply send your name, address, age, and the titles of your three favorite Marvel Comics to Marvel Correspondents at the address high atop this letter column. Now, that wasn't so hard, was it?

Neil Shah
87 Natalie Wy.
Red Bank, NJ 07701
Age: 12
Favorites: ALPHA FLIGHT, X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS

Eric Mylonas
620 Scarsdale Rd.
Carmel, NY 10512
Age: 14
Favorites: AVENGERS, HERCULES (Miniseries), SILVER SURFER

Logan Xevious
12423 Cascade Wy.
Nevada City, CA 95959
Age: 14
Favorites: X-MEN, PUNISHER, GROO

Antonio Ancestasi
Via Pensavalle 20
Catania 95128
ITALY
Age: Didn't say
Favorites: SPIDER-MAN, FANTASTIC FOUR, AVENGERS

Joseph Kutniewski III
1 Heather Ln.
Oxford, CT 06483
Age: 12
Favorites: CONAN THE BARBARIAN, SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, X-MEN

Lance Heiskell
714 Conlen Ave.
Dalhart, TX 79022
Age: 14
Favorites: EXCALIBUR, SPIDER-MAN, X-MEN

Marco Fincato
8558 Kim-Marie Ct.
Pasadena, MD 21122
Age: 16
Favorites: X-MEN, STRIKEFORCE MORITURI, PUNISHER

Danny Smith
12010 61 St.
Edmonton, Alberta
CANADA T5W 4B1
Age: 12
Favorites: WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, PUNISHER, WOLVERINE

Nicholas Ali
274 Ponco St.
Lange Park, Chaguanas,
Trinidad and Tobago
WEST INDIES
Age: 18
Favorites: IRON MAN, FANTASTIC FOUR, WEST COAST AVENGERS

Nebert C. Gobert
1436 Carney St.
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Favorites: X-MEN, PUNISHER, DAREDEVIL

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PAUL RYAN &
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